

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3396

To require the standardization of reciprocal fire suppression cost share agreements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2023

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the standardization of reciprocal fire suppression cost share agreements, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fire Department Re-
5 payment Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CERTAIN FIRE SUP-**
2 **PRESSION COST SHARE AGREEMENTS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING
4 PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
5 the enactment of this section, the Secretaries shall—

6 (1) establish standard operating procedures re-
7 lating to fire suppression cost share agreements es-
8 tablished under the Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C.
9 1856a) (commonly known as the “Reciprocal Fire
10 Protection Act”); and

11 (2) with respect to each fire suppression cost
12 share agreement in operation on such date—

13 (A) review each such agreement; and

14 (B) modify each agreement as necessary to
15 comply with the standard operating procedures
16 required under paragraph (1).

17 (b) ALIGNMENT OF FIRE SUPPRESSION COST SHARE
18 AGREEMENTS WITH COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION
19 AGREEMENTS.—The standard operating procedures re-
20 quired under subsection (a)(1) shall include a requirement
21 that each fire suppression cost share agreement be aligned
22 with each of the cooperative fire protection agreements ap-
23 plicable to the entity subject to such fire suppression cost
24 share agreement.

1 (c) SECOND-LEVEL REVIEW.—The standard oper-
2 ating procedures required under subsection (a)(1) shall in-
3 clude—

4 (1) a requirement that the Secretaries, to the
5 maximum extent practicable, complete reviews, in-
6 cluding second-level reviews of a fire suppression
7 cost share agreement, as soon as practicable after a
8 wildfire relating to the area covered by such fire
9 suppression cost share agreement is contained; and

10 (2) a requirement that in completing such re-
11 views, the Secretaries consults with State and local
12 fire suppression organizations.

13 (d) SECRETARIES DEFINED.—In this section, the
14 term “Secretaries” means—

15 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture;

16 (2) the Secretary of the Interior;

17 (3) the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

18 (4) the Secretary of Defense.

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