

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 345

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself 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 2025”.

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 payment timelines for fire suppression cost
8 share agreements established under the Act of May
9 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly known as
10 the “Reciprocal Fire 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.

25 (c) PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO COST SHARE AGREE-
26 MENTS.—With respect to payments made pursuant to fire

1 suppression cost share agreements, the standard operating
2 procedures required under subsection (a)(1) shall require
3 that the Federal paying entity reimburse a local fire de-
4 partment if such fire department submits an invoice in
5 accordance with cost settlement procedures.

6 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the Secretaries should carry out reciprocal fire
8 suppression cost share agreement repayments to local fire
9 suppression organizations as soon as practicable after fire
10 suppression occurs but not later than 1 year after fire sup-
11 pression occurs.

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

- 14 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- 15 (2) the Secretary of the Interior;
- 16 (3) the Secretary of Homeland Security; and
- 17 (4) the Secretary of Defense.

○