

# Union Calendar No. 142

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 369

[Report No. 118–178]

To require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to conduct research on public safety communication coordination standards among wildland firefighters and fire management response officials.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2023

Mrs. KIM of California (for herself, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Additional sponsors: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 17, 2023]

# **A BILL**

To require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to conduct research on public safety communication coordination standards among wildland firefighters and fire management response officials.

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 “NIST Wildland Fire*  
5 *Communications and Information Dissemination Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON WILDLAND FIRE COMMUNICATIONS**  
7 **AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.**

8        *(a) IN GENERAL.—*

9            *(1) PUBLIC SAFETY RESEARCH.—Not later than*  
10 *60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,*  
11 *the Director, acting through the head of the Public*  
12 *Safety and Communications Research Division and*  
13 *in consultation with the Fire Research Division and*  
14 *technology manufacturers, shall carry out research on*  
15 *the following:*

16            *(A) Public safety communication coordina-*  
17 *tion standards among Federal, State, Tribal,*  
18 *and local wildland firefighters, fire management*  
19 *response officials, and member agencies.*

20            *(B) Improving and integrating existing*  
21 *communications systems to transmit secure real-*  
22 *time data, alerts, and advisories to and from fire*  
23 *management response officials and wildland fire-*  
24 *fighters.*

1           (2) *FIELD TESTING AND MEASUREMENT OF IN-*  
2 *FORMATION DISSEMINATION AND TECHNOLOGY.*—*The*  
3 *Public Safety and Communications Research Divi-*  
4 *sion, in consultation with the Fire Research Division*  
5 *and member agencies, shall conduct both live and vir-*  
6 *tual field testing of equipment, software, and other*  
7 *technologies to determine current times of information*  
8 *dissemination and develop standards for the delivery*  
9 *of useful and secure real-time data among member*  
10 *agencies, fire management response officials, and*  
11 *wildland firefighters, based on findings from research*  
12 *under subsection (a).*

13           **(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

14           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Director shall develop*  
15 *and publish recommendations to improve public safe-*  
16 *ty communication coordination standards among*  
17 *wildland first responders and fire management re-*  
18 *sponse officials.*

19           (2) *TRANSMITTAL.*—*The Director shall transmit*  
20 *the recommendations under paragraph (1) to the Of-*  
21 *fice of Management and Budget and the Office of*  
22 *Science and Technology Policy for member agencies to*  
23 *implement.*

24           (3) *REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.*—

1           (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Director shall submit*  
2           *to the Committee on Science, Space, and*  
3           *Technology of the House of Representatives and*  
4           *the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*  
5           *Transportation of the Senate a report containing*  
6           *the recommendations published under paragraph*  
7           *(1).*

8           (B) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—*Not later than 1*  
9           *year after the date of the publication of the Di-*  
10          *rector’s recommendations under paragraph (1),*  
11          *the Comptroller General of the United States*  
12          *shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space,*  
13          *and Technology of the House of Representatives*  
14          *and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*  
15          *Transportation of the Senate a report on the ex-*  
16          *tent to which member agencies have implemented*  
17          *such recommendations.*

18          (c) *FUNDING.*—*From amounts made available to the*  
19          *National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Direc-*  
20          *tor shall allocate \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024*  
21          *through 2028 to carry out this section.*

22          (d) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

23               (1) *DIRECTOR.*—*The term “Director” means the*  
24               *Director of the National Institute of Standards and*  
25               *Technology.*

1           (2) *MEMBER AGENCY.*—*The term “member agency” means a member agency of the National Inter-*  
2           *agency Fire Center, including the Bureau of Indian*  
3           *Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park*  
4           *Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-*  
5           *tration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Serv-*  
6           *ice, United States Fire Administration, and the De-*  
7           *partment of Defense.*

9           (3) *WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.*—*The term*  
10          *“wildland firefighter” means any person who partici-*  
11          *pates in wildland firefighting activities.*

12          (4) *FIRE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE OFFICIALS.*—  
13          *The term “fire management response officials” means*  
14          *regional fire directors, deputy regional fire directors,*  
15          *agency officials who directly oversee fire operations,*  
16          *fire management officers, and individuals serving on*  
17          *incident management teams.*

18          (5) *TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURERS.*—*The term*  
19          *“technology manufacturers” means private sector en-*  
20          *tities that manufacture communications technologies*  
21          *used by Federal, State, Tribal, or local wildland fire*  
22          *authorities.*



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