

COLORADO STATE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: CSFCA Board of Directors
From: Paul L. Cooke, Executive Director
Subject: Federal Legislation of Interest to the Fire Service
Date: June 10, 2009

Following is a report on legislation of interest to the fire service that has been introduced in the 111th Congress. The 111th Congress will last from January 3, 2009, until January 3, 2011, and it began its first session on January 6, 2009.¹

This report includes a summary of the bill and the current status. All bills listed in this report are also found on the Federal Legislation page on the CSFCA website: <http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation.htm>. Copies of the bills as introduced are also posted to the website; however, we simply do not have the resources to track the language of all amendments that may be made to a particular bill.

House of Representatives

Bill Number: H.R. 343, Volunteer Firefighter Tax Relief Act of 2009

Title

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow volunteer firefighters a deduction for personal safety clothing.

Sponsor(s): Rep. Todd Russell Platts [PA]

Co-Sponsors: Rep. John M. McHugh [NY]

Summary

Volunteer Firefighter Tax Relief Act of 2009 - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow volunteer firefighters a tax deduction from gross income for personal safety clothing (including helmets and boots) used in performing fire fighting services.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_343.pdf

History

Jan 8, 2009: Introduced. Referred to the [House Committee on Ways and Means](#).

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: No Companion Legislation Has Been Introduced in the Senate

¹ A Congress lasts for two years, commencing in January of the year following the biennial election of Members. A Congress is divided into two sessions.

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Bill Number: H.R. 413, Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2009

Title

To provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

Sponsor(s): Rep. Dale Kildee [D, MI-5]

Co-Sponsors: [Rep. Diana DeGette](#) [D, CO-1] & 73 [other co-sponsors](#) as of 5/5/09.

Summary

Directs the Federal Labor Relations Authority to determine whether state law provides specified rights and responsibilities for public safety officers, including: (1) granting public safety employees the right to form and join a labor organization which excludes management and supervisory employees, and which is, or seeks to be, recognized as the exclusive bargaining agent for such employees; and (2) requiring public safety employers to recognize and agree to bargain with the employees' labor organization.

Requires the Authority to issue regulations establishing rights and responsibilities for public safety employers and employees in states that do not substantially provide for such public safety employee rights and responsibilities. Directs the Authority, in such cases, to: (1) determine the appropriateness of units for labor organization representation; (2) supervise or conduct elections to determine whether a labor organization has been selected as an exclusive representative by a voting majority of the employees in an appropriate unit; (3) resolve issues relating to the duty to bargain in good faith; (4) conduct hearings and resolve complaints of unfair labor practices; and (5) resolve exceptions to arbitrator's awards.

Grants a public safety employer, employee, or labor organization the right to seek enforcement of Authority regulations and orders, as well as prohibitions against lockouts or strikes, through appropriate state courts.

Prohibits public safety employers, employees, and labor organizations from engaging in lockouts or strikes.

Provides that existing collective bargaining units and agreements shall not be invalidated by this Act.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_413.pdf

History

Jan 9, 2009: Introduced and Referred to the [House Committee on Education and Labor](#).

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: No Companion Legislation Has Been Introduced in the Senate

Bill Number: H.R. 418, Safe Access in Fire Emergencies Act of 2009

Title

To confirm the jurisdiction of the Consumer Product Safety Commission with respect to releasing systems on residential window bars and to establish a consumer product safety standard ensuring that all such bars include a quick-release mechanism.

Sponsor(s): Rep. Barbara Lee [CA]

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Co-Sponsors: None

Summary

Safe Access in Fire Emergencies Act of 2009 - Requires the Consumer Products Safety Commission to establish a consumer product safety standard for window bars that: (1) requires all window bars manufactured or installed in the United States to incorporate releasing systems that meet minimum standards; and (2) addresses such systems for interior and exterior based bars. Provides that the minimum standards shall require that such systems provide for: (1) egress when actuated; and (2) manual activation from inside a residence allowing escape through a protected opening.

Requires compliance enforcement under the Consumer Products Safety Act. Directs the Commission to require each manufacturer to include in the packaging a statement explaining window bar installation and releasing system operation.

Expresses the sense of the Congress that public housing, low-income housing, manufactured housing units, and homes purchased using any loan made, insured, or guaranteed under the National Housing Act should meet a minimal standard that requires window bars to incorporate an emergency releasing system.

Requires the Commission to establish and maintain a National Electronic Injury Surveillance System code and system for collection of information and statistics on casualties associated with window bars.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_418.pdf

History

Jan 9, 2009: Introduced. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services.

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: No Companion Legislation Has Been Introduced in the Senate

Bill Number: H.R. 706, National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2009

Title

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue to administer the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s): [Rep. Steve Cohen](#) [D-TN]

Co-Sponsors: Del. Eleanor Norton [D-DC], Rep. Robert Andrews [D-NJ], Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart [R-FL]

Summary

National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2009 - Amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to: (1) continue to administer the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System; (2) provide for a national network of standardized search and rescue resources; (3) designate task forces to participate in the System and determine criteria for participation; and (4) enter into an agreement with the required sponsoring

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agency of each task force regarding participation. Sets forth provisions regarding the composition of task forces and reimbursement.

Authorizes the Administrator to appoint a System member for a period of federal service to participate in sponsored or sanctioned exercises, pre-incident staging, major disaster and emergency response activities, and training events. Entitles a member who suffers personal injury, illness, disability, or death while acting in the scope of such appointment to be treated as an employee who sustained the injury in the performance of duty.

Sets forth provisions regarding election of benefits, liability, employment and re-employment rights, and licenses and permits.

Directs the Administrator to: (1) establish and maintain an advisory committee; (2) enter into an annual preparedness cooperative agreement with each agency; and (3) enter into response cooperative agreements under which the Administrator agrees to reimburse agencies for emergency response costs.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_706.pdf

History

Jan 27, 2009: Introduced. Referred to the [House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#).

Jan 28, 2009: [Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management](#).

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: No Companion Legislation Has Been Introduced in the Senate

Bill Number: H.R. 948, Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2009

Title

To amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

Sponsor(s): Rep. Lois Capps [D-CA]

Co-Sponsors: [Rep. Diana DeGette](#) [D-CO], and [124 others](#) [as of 2009-05-05]

Summary

Provides that: (1) specified diseases, including heart disease, lung disease, tuberculosis, hepatitis, human immunodeficiency virus, and specified cancers, of federal employees in fire protection activities shall be presumed to be proximately caused by such employment; (2) the disability or death of such an employee due to such a disease shall be presumed to result from personal injury sustained while in the performance of duty; and (3) such presumptions may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence.

Defines an "employee in fire protection activities" as a firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, rescue worker, ambulance personnel, or hazardous material worker, who: (1) is trained in fire suppression; (2) has the legal authority and responsibility to engage in fire suppression; (3) is engaged in the prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires or response to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk; and (4) performs such activities as a primary responsibility of his or her job.

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Directs the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to examine the implementation of this Act and appropriate scientific and medical data related to the health risks associated with firefighting and to report to Congress on: (1) an analysis of the injury claims made under this Act; (2) an analysis of the available research related to the health risks associated with firefighting; and (3) recommendations for any administrative or legislative actions necessary to ensure that those diseases most associated with firefighting are included in the presumption created by this Act.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_948.pdf

History

Feb 10, 2009: Referred to the [House Committee on Education and Labor](#).

Mar 23, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: S. 599, Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2009

Bill Number: H.R.1194, Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009

Title

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

Sponsor(s): Rep. James R. Langevin [RI-2]

Co-Sponsors: [87 Co-Sponsors](#) as of April 29, 2009

Summary

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009 - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as five-year depreciable property. Makes this Act applicable to property placed in service after April 11, 2003.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_1194.pdf

History

Feb 25, 2009: Introduced and Referred to the [House Committee on Ways and Means](#).

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: No Companion Legislation Has Been Introduced in the Senate

Bill Number: H.R. 1404, Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act)

Title

To authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s): Rep Rahall, Nick J., II [WV]

Co-Sponsors: Del. Madeleine Bordallo [D-GU], Rep. Michael Simpson [R-ID], Rep. Raul Grijalva [D-AZ], Rep. Greg Walden [R-OR], Rep. Michael Thompson [D-CA], Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin [D-SD], Rep. Harry Teague [D-NM], Rep. Martin Heinrich [D-NM], Rep. Collin Peterson [D-MN], [Rep. Mike Coffman](#) [R-CO], Rep. Jay Inslee [D-WA], Rep. Norman Dicks [D-WA], Rep. Earl Blumenauer [D-OR], Rep. Brian Baird [D-WA], Rep. Peter DeFazio [D-OR]

Summary

Establishes in the Treasury the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Fund (Flame Fund). Requires amounts in the Flame Fund to be made available to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture (the Secretaries) to pay the costs of catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities that are separate from amounts annually appropriated for the predicted annual workload for such activities. Requires that such authorized suppression activities include containment activities in response to crisis insect infestations to reduce the likelihood of wildfires.

Authorizes appropriations for the Flame Fund. Expresses the intent of Congress with respect to the expenditure of amounts appropriated to the Flame Fund.

Instructs the Secretaries to notify specified congressional committees (the congressional committees) whenever only an estimated two months worth of funding remains in the Flame Fund. Requires the transfer of unobligated wildland fire suppression funds into the Flame Fund.

Makes amounts in the Flame Fund available to the Secretaries only after such Secretaries issue a declaration that a wildland fire suppression activity is eligible for funding from the Fund. Sets forth the criteria upon which such a declaration shall be based, including criteria concerning the fire's severity and the threat posed by it.

Requires the Secretaries, for the purposes of applying the severity and threat criteria in individual wildland fire incidents, to take into account areas where insect infestation has created an extreme risk for wildfire.

Continues funding for anticipated and predicted wildland fire suppression activities within appropriate agency budgets. Requires the additional funding made available through the Flame Fund to be used only for purposes and in instances consistent with this section.

Requires obligating all amounts in the Flame Fund and all funds appropriated for wildland fire suppression on federal land before the transfer of funds from non-fire accounts for wildland fire suppression.

Directs the Secretaries to establish an accounting and reporting system for the Flame Fund compatible with existing National Fire Plan reporting procedures.

Requires the Secretaries to report annually to the congressional committees on the use of the funds from the Flame Fund, together with recommendations to improve administrative control and oversight of the Fund. Requires such report to be made available to the public.

Requires the Secretaries to submit to the congressional committees estimates of anticipated wildfire suppression costs in order to improve budgeting and funding. Subjects the methodology for the development of the estimates to peer review to ensure that they were developed using the best available climate, weather,

and other relevant data and models and other analytic tools. Prescribes a schedule for submission of such estimates.

Requires the Secretaries to submit a report to Congress that contains a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, consistent with the recommendations of recent Comptroller General reports.

Sets forth the elements of the strategy. Includes: (1) a system for ensuring that the highest priority fuels reduction projects are being funded first; (2) a system to assess the impacts of climate change on the frequency and severity of wildland fire; (3) a system to study the effects of invasive species on wildland fire risk; and (4) a plan, developed in coordination with the National Guard Bureau, to maximize the use of National Guard resources to fight wildfires.

Directs the Secretaries to submit to Congress, at least once during every five- year period initially beginning on the date of submission of the strategy, a revised strategy taking into consideration changes affecting the elements of the strategy, in particular changes respecting landscape, vegetation, climate, and weather. Ensures that owners of adjacent private land are notified before any prescribed fire is used on National Forest System land.

Directs the Secretaries to conduct a review, using independent panels, of each wild fire incident for which expenses exceeding \$10 million were incurred and to submit a report containing the results of each review conducted. Requires the review of an incident to include separate assessments of: (1) what actions, if any, could have been taken in advance of the fire that may have prevented it or at least reduced its severity; and (2) the quantity of greenhouse gases produced as a result of the fire.

Directs the Secretaries to develop regional maps of communities most at risk of wildfire and in need of hazardous fuel treatment and maintenance.

Requires such maps to identify priority areas for hazardous fuels reduction projects, including: (1) at-risk communities in fire-prone areas of the wildland-urban interface; (2) watersheds and municipal drinking water sources; (3) emergency evacuation corridors; (4) electricity transmission corridors; and (5) low-capacity or low-income communities.

Authorizes the Secretaries to provide cost-share grants to fire-ready communities which may be used for: (1) education programs to raise awareness of homeowners and citizens about wildland fire protection practices, including FireWise or other similar programs; (2) training programs for local firefighters on wildland firefighting techniques and approaches; (3) equipment acquisition to facilitate wildland fire preparedness; (4) implementation of a community wildfire protection plan; and (5) implementation of fire-safety programs focused on the eradication or control of invasive species.

Instructs the Secretaries, in developing any wildland fire cost-share agreement with a state forester or equivalent official, to encourage the state and local communities involved to become fire-ready communities.

Authorizes appropriations to carry out this section.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_1404.pdf

Status: This bill has been passed in the House and has been referred to the Senate. The debate in the Senate may take place on this bill or the companion bill.

History

Mar 10, 2009: Introduced and Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and the Budget

Mar 26, 2009: Passed House on a recorded vote: 412 - 3

Mar 26, 2009: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the [Committee on Energy and Natural Resources](#).

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: S. 561, Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act)

Bill Number: H.R. 1499, Firefighter Fatality Reduction Act of 2009

Title

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a survey to determine the level of compliance with national voluntary consensus standards and any barriers to achieving compliance with such standards, and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s): [Rep. Ed Perlmutter](#) [D-CO]

Co-Sponsors: [Rep. Diana DeGette](#) [D-CO] and 24 other [Co-Sponsors](#) as of 3/18/09

Summary

Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Task Force established by the Secretary, to begin to conduct a survey of each career, volunteer, and combination fire department located in the United States in order to ascertain whether each such fire department is in compliance with national voluntary consensus standards, not later than 120 days after enactment of this bill.

Directs the Secretary, in carrying out the survey, to ascertain the rates of such compliance of: (1) paid, volunteer, and combination fire departments; (2) fire departments located in communities of varying sizes; and (3) fire departments in each of the States and territories.

The required survey shall ascertain, for each fire department in the United States, compliance with national voluntary consensus standards for staffing, training, safe operations, personal protective equipment, and fitness.

Directs the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the findings of the required survey including the rates of compliance, not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Directs the Secretary to establish a task force to be known as the "Task Force to Enhance Firefighter Safety" (Task Force), not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Secretary from among the general public and shall include: (A) representatives of national organizations representing firefighters and fire chiefs; (B) individuals representing standards-setting and accrediting organizations, including representatives from the voluntary consensus codes and standards development community; and (C) other individuals as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

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The Secretary may invite representatives of other departments and agencies of the United States that have an interest in the fire service to participate in the meetings and other activities of the Task Force.

Directs the Task Force to: (1) consult with the Secretary to conduct the required survey; and (2) develop a plan to enhance firefighter safety by increasing fire department compliance with national voluntary consensus standards for staffing, training, safe operations, personal protective equipment, and fitness, including by: (A) reviewing and evaluating the required report to determine the extent of and barriers to achieving compliance with national voluntary consensus standards among fire departments; and (B) considering ways in which the Federal Government, States, and localities can promote, encourage, or require fire departments to comply with national voluntary consensus standards.

Directs the Task Force to submit to Congress and the Secretary a report containing the findings and recommendations of the Task Force together with the plan described above, not later than 6 months after the date on which the Secretary submits his required report.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_1499.pdf

History

Mar 12, 2009: Introduced and assigned to [House Science and Technology Committee](#)

Mar 17, 2009: Referred to the [Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation](#)

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: S. 602, Firefighter Fatality Reduction Act of 2009

Bill Number: H.R. 2050, Protect Children from Dangerous Lighters Act of 2009

Title

A bill to prohibit the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of novelty lighters, and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s): Rep. Michael Michaud [D, ME-2]

Co-Sponsors: None

Summary

Treats certain novelty lighters as banned hazardous substances under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, and applies to them the Act's prohibitions (in effect banning their introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce).

Defines as a "novelty lighter" a lighter that has a toy-like appearance, has entertaining audio or visual effects, or resembles in any way in form or function an item that is commonly recognized as appealing, attractive, or intended for use by children of 10 years of age or younger. Excludes from that term standard disposable and refillable lighters that are printed or decorated with logos, labels, decals, artwork, or heat shrinkable sleeves.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/HR_2050.pdf

History

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Apr 22, 2009: Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: S. 723, Protect Children from Dangerous Lighters Act of 2009

U.S. Senate

Bill Number: S. 561, Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act)

Title

To authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s): Sen. Jeff Bingaman [D-NM]

Co-Sponsors: Sen. Jeff Merkley [D-OR], Sen. Tom Udall [D-NM], Sen. Maria Cantwell [D-WA], Sen. Barbara Boxer [D-CA], [Sen. Michael Bennet](#) [D-CO], Sen. Debbie Ann Stabenow [D-MI], Sen. Orrin Hatch [R-UT], [Sen. Mark Udall](#) [D-CO], Sen. John Thune [R-SD], Sen. Patty Murray [D-WA], Sen. Lisa Murkowski [R-AK], Sen. Jon Tester [D-MT], Sen. Tim Johnson [D-SD], Sen. Ron Wyden [D-OR]

Summary See Summary for H.R. 1404

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/S_561.pdf

Status: The companion bill has been passed in the House and has been referred to the Senate. The debate in the Senate may take place on this bill or the companion bill.

History

Mar 10, 2009: Introduced. Read twice and referred to the [Committee on Energy and Natural Resources](#).

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: H.R. 1404, Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act)

Bill Number: S. 599, Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2009

Title

A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

Sponsor(s): Sen. Thomas Carper [D-DE]

Co-Sponsors: Sen. John Kerry [D-MA], Sen. Mary Landrieu [D-LA], Sen. Jeff Bingaman [D-NM], Sen. Susan Collins [R-ME], Sen. Christopher Dodd [D-CT], Sen. Edward Kennedy [D-MA], Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse [D-RI], Sen. Barbara Boxer [D-CA], Sen. James Inhofe [R-OK], [Sen. Michael Bennet](#) [D-CO], Sen. Joseph Lieberman [I-CT], Sen. Mark Begich [D-AK], Sen. Ron Wyden [D-OR], Sen. Patty Murray [D-WA]

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Summary

See Summary for H.R. 948

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill:

http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/S_599.pdf

Status:

During consideration of the bill in Committee, Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) offered an amendment that requires the establishment of protocols to notify first responders if they have been exposed to a blood borne pathogen.

History

Mar 16, 2009: Introduced. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mar 25, 2009: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs referred to Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia.

May 20, 2009: [Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#). Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: H.R. 948, Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2009

Bill Number:

S. 602



Short Title:

Firefighter Fatality Reduction Act of 2009

Title

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a survey to determine the level of compliance with national voluntary consensus standards and any barriers to achieving compliance with such standards, and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s):

Sen. Sherrod Brown [D, OH]

Co-Sponsors:

Sen. Barbara Boxer [D, CA], Sen. John Kerry [D, MA], Sen. Joseph Lieberman [I, CT]

Summary

See Summary for H.R. 1499

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill:

http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/S_602.pdf

History

Mar 16, 2009: Introduced. Read twice and referred to the [Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#).

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: H.R. 1499, Firefighter Fatality Reduction Act of 2009

Bill Number:

S. 723, Protect Children from Dangerous Lighters Act of 2009

Title

A bill to prohibit the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of novelty lighters, and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s):

Sen. Ron Wyden [D, OR]

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Co-Sponsors: Sen. Thomas Carper [D, DE], Sen. Susan Collins [R, ME], Sen. Christopher Dodd [D, (6) as of 4/20/2009 CT], Sen. Bernard Sanders [VT], Sen. Olympia J. Snowe [ME], Sen. George Voinovich [R, OH]

Summary See Summary for H.R. 2050

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/S_723.pdf

History

Mar 26, 2009: Introduced. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: H.R. 2050, Protect Children from Dangerous Lighters Act of 2009

Bill Number: S. 762, Fire Safe Communities Act of 2009

Title

A bill to promote fire safe communities and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s): Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [CA]

Co-Sponsors: Sen. Barbara Boxer [CA], Sen. Charles E. Schumer [NY]

Summary

Official bill summary not yet available. See comments of Sen. Dianne Feinstein [CA] on the introduction of S.762 at: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/S762_Feinstein.pdf.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/S_762.pdf

History

Apr 1, 2009: Introduced. Read twice and referred to the [Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#)

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: No Companion Legislation Has Been Introduced in the House

Bill Number: S. 822, Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Support Act of 2009

Title

A bill to support the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, and for other purposes.

Sponsor(s): Sen. Bernard Sanders [VT]

Co-Sponsors: None

Summary

Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Support Act of 2009 - Amends the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to provide funds to a state or local government, nonprofit firefighter association, or governmental or nongovernmental emergency medical services (EMS) organization, that carries out a volunteer firefighter incentive program in accordance with this Act.

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Directs the Secretary, for each fiscal year in which a state or local government, nonprofit firefighter association, or governmental or nongovernmental EMS organization carries out a volunteer firefighter incentive program, to pay such government, association, or organization (organization), out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for such fiscal year, a sum equal to the total expenditures of funds not received from the federal government made by such organization for that fiscal year to carry out the program.

Declares that this constitutes budget authority in advance of appropriations Acts and represents the obligation of the federal government to provide payment to a state or local government, nonprofit firefighter association, or governmental or nongovernmental EMS organization any amount so provided.

Requires reports from recipients, and from the Secretary annually, to Congress.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/S_822.pdf

History

Apr 2, 2009: Introduced. Read twice and referred to the [Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#)

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: No Companion Legislation Has Been Introduced in the House

Bill Number: S. 857, Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act of 2009 or the SERVE Act of 2009

Title

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a \$1,000 refundable credit for individuals who are bona fide volunteer members of volunteer firefighting and emergency medical service organizations.

Sponsor(s): Sen. Charles E. Schumer [NY]

Co-Sponsors: Sen. Christopher J. Dodd [CT], Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand [NY], Sen. Mary L. Landrieu [LA], Sen. David Vitter [LA]

Summary

Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act of 2009 or the SERVE Act of 2009 - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a \$1,000 refundable tax credit for individuals who are bona fide volunteer members of a qualified volunteer fire department who provide firefighting, ambulance, or emergency medical services.

Position:

Position Paper:

Download Bill: http://www.colofirechiefs.org/fedlegislation/S_857.pdf

History

Apr 22, 2009: Introduced, read twice and referred to the [Committee on Finance](#).

Companion Bill or Related Legislation: No Companion Legislation Has Been Introduced in the House
