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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to cancel or delay certain courses and programs offered by the Academy, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to cancel or delay certain courses and programs offered by the Academy, 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 “Firefighter Learning  
5       and Management Education Act” or the “FLAME Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The National Academy for Fire Prevention  
4 and Control (in this section referred to as the  
5 “Academy”) of the United States Fire Administra-  
6 tion, and the Emergency Management Institute, are  
7 located at the National Emergency Training Center  
8 in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

9 (2) Congress directed the establishment of the  
10 Academy in accordance with section 7 of the Federal  
11 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.  
12 2206) to “advance the professional development of  
13 fire service personnel”.

14 (3) The Academy is the American fire service  
15 war college and provides critical training and edu-  
16 cation programs for our nation’s first responders.

17 (4) Tens of thousands of career and volunteer  
18 firefighters from departments across the country  
19 benefit from courses at the Academy annually.

20 (5) In 2017, an overwhelming majority of stu-  
21 dents at the Academy reported that their coursework  
22 helped improve their individual skills and enhanced  
23 their local fire department’s readiness.

24 (6) In fiscal year 2023, more than 40,000 fire-  
25 fighters participated in courses with the Academy.  
26 After participating in these courses, 90 percent of

1 supervisors shared that their firefighters were better  
2 prepared to respond to emergencies as a result of  
3 their training at the Academy.

4 (7) At a time when wildfires have ravaged—and  
5 continue to threaten—communities across the nation,  
6 the collaboration and education managed by the  
7 Academy has never been more important to secure  
8 the future of fire services.

9 (8) Given the importance of the programs at  
10 the Academy, it is critical to clarify the authority of  
11 the Academy to cancel courses and programming,  
12 and to require proper notice be given to Congress  
13 before any large-scale closures happen.

14 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO CANCEL OR DELAY CERTAIN**  
15 **COURSES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE**  
16 **NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR FIRE PREVENTION**  
17 **AND CONTROL.**

18 (a) POWERS OF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED  
19 STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO LARGE-  
20 SCALE CANCELLATION ACTIONS; CONGRESSIONAL RE-  
21 VIEW.—Section 7 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-  
22 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

23 (1) by redesignating subsection (n) as sub-  
24 section (r); and

1           (2) by inserting after subsection (m) the fol-  
2       lowing new subsections:

3       “(n) LARGE-SCALE CANCELLATION ACTION.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is au-  
5       thorized to implement a large-scale cancellation ac-  
6       tion relating to a covered course or program.

7           “(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60  
8       days before the date on which the Administrator im-  
9       plements a large-scale cancellation action pursuant  
10      to paragraph (1), or in the event of an exigent cir-  
11      cumstance, as soon as practicable thereafter, the Ad-  
12      ministrator shall submit to Congress a notice that  
13      includes the following:

14           “(A) An identification of the covered  
15      courses or programs to be cancelled.

16           “(B) An identification of the fire depart-  
17      ments and agencies with personnel registered  
18      for the covered courses or programs to be can-  
19      celled.

20           “(C) The total number of personnel reg-  
21      istered for the covered courses or programs to  
22      be cancelled, disaggregated by the number of  
23      such personnel in each of such fire departments  
24      or agencies.

1                   “(D) A justification for each such cancella-  
2                   tion.

3                   “(3) NOTICE TO STUDENTS.—If the Adminis-  
4                   trator implements under paragraph (1) a large-scale  
5                   cancellation action relating to a covered course or  
6                   program, the Administrator, not later than 45 days  
7                   before the intended start date of such course or pro-  
8                   gram, or in the event of an exigent circumstance, as  
9                   soon as practicable thereafter, shall inform each stu-  
10                  dent enrolled in such covered course or program,  
11                  and the fire chief or other appropriate head of each  
12                  fire department of such students, of such cancella-  
13                  tion.

14                  “(o) OTHER CANCELLATION.—If the Superintendent  
15                  cancels a covered course or program, the Superintendent,  
16                  not later than 30 days before the intended start date of  
17                  such course or program, or in the event of an exigent cir-  
18                  cumstance, as soon as practicable thereafter, shall inform  
19                  each student enrolled in such covered course or program,  
20                  and the fire chief or other appropriate head of each fire  
21                  department of such students, of such cancellation.

22                  “(p) REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN EXPENSES.—

23                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days  
24                  after the Administrator of FEMA receives an  
25                  itemization under paragraph (3) from a fire depart-

1       ment relating to a covered course or program that  
2       is cancelled, the Administrator of FEMA, subject to  
3       paragraph (2), shall reimburse such fire department  
4       for any covered expense related to such course or  
5       program.

6           “(2) GOOD CAUSE.—A reimbursement under  
7       paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a cov-  
8       ered course or program that is cancelled if such cov-  
9       ered course or program is cancelled for good cause.

10          “(3) ITEMIZATION OF EXPENSES.—Not later  
11       than 30 days after the intended start date of the  
12       course or program that was cancelled, the fire chief  
13       or other appropriate head of a fire department af-  
14       fected by such cancellation may submit to the Ad-  
15       ministrator of FEMA an application for reimburse-  
16       ment that includes an itemization of each covered  
17       expense such fire department incurred.

18          “(q) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19           “(1) BACKFILL EXPENSE.—The term ‘backfill  
20       expense’ means an expense incurred for the fol-  
21       lowing:

22                  “(A) Staffing adjustments.

23                  “(B) Overtime compensation.

1           “(2) COVERED COURSE OR PROGRAM.—The  
2           term ‘covered course or program’ means a course or  
3           program that is offered by the Academy—

4                   “(A) in-person and on-campus;

5                   “(B) in-person and off-campus; or

6                   “(C) through synchronous or asynchronous  
7           virtual instruction.

8           “(3) COVERED EXPENSE.—The term ‘covered  
9           expense’ means any expense that a fire department  
10          incurred for the planned participation of the per-  
11          sonnel of such fire department in a covered course  
12          or program, including the following:

13                   “(A) Any travel expense.

14                   “(B) Any backfill expense.

15          “(4) GOOD CAUSE.—The term ‘good cause’ in-  
16          cludes the following:

17                   “(A) The closure of a facility of the Acad-  
18          emy.

19                   “(B) The illness or unavailability of an in-  
20          structor of the Academy.

21                   “(C) A national emergency that impedes  
22          access to a facility of the Academy by a student  
23          or faculty member of the Academy.

24          “(5) LARGE-SCALE CANCELLATION ACTION.—  
25          The term ‘large-scale cancellation action’ means an

1 action taken by the Administrator whereby the Ad-  
2 ministrator cancels at one time at least 25 percent  
3 of the total number of covered courses or programs  
4 planned to be offered by the Academy in a fiscal  
5 year.”.

6 (b) GAO STUDY.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 30,  
8 2026, the Comptroller General of the United States  
9 shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space,  
10 and Technology and the Committee on Homeland  
11 Security of the House of Representatives and the  
12 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
13 Affairs of the Senate a study that includes the mat-  
14 ters specified in paragraph (2).

15 (2) MATTERS SPECIFIED.—The matters speci-  
16 fied in this paragraph are the following:

17 (A) Any impact of any large-scale cancella-  
18 tion action by the National Academy for Fire  
19 Prevention and Control during calendar year  
20 2025 of covered courses or programs (as such  
21 terms are defined in subsection (r) of section 7  
22 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act  
23 of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206) as added by sub-  
24 section (b)) offered by the Academy on the pre-



1           paredness of fire departments for a national  
2           emergency.

3           (B) Any negative consequences of such  
4           cancellations.

5           (C) How the National Academy for Fire  
6           Prevention and Control contributes to estab-  
7           lishing a common approach, including inter-  
8           operability of fire and emergency response, for  
9           firefighters and first responders to provide mu-  
10          tual aid and combat fires, natural disasters,  
11          medical emergencies, and other similar events,  
12          and the value of such common approach.

13          (D) The number of students who have at-  
14          tended a course or program at the National  
15          Academy for Fire Prevention and Control dur-  
16          ing the immediately preceding 3 calendar years,  
17          disaggregated by the following:

18               (i) Any such courses or programs that  
19               are offered in-person and at the National  
20               Academy for Fire Prevention and Control  
21               campus.

22               (ii) Any such courses or programs  
23               that are offered in-person and not at the  
24               National Academy for Fire Prevention and  
25               Control campus.

1 (iii) Any such courses or program that  
2 are offered by synchronous virtual instruc-  
3 tion.

4 (iv) Any such courses or program that  
5 are offered by asynchronous virtual in-  
6 struction.

7 (E) An identification and description of  
8 the most in-demand courses.