

# Union Calendar No. 149

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1567

**[Report No. 118–186, Part I]**

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2023

Mr. TIFFANY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Additional sponsor: Mr. NEWHOUSE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 10, 2023]

# **A BILL**

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, 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 “Accurately Counting*  
5 *Risk Elimination Solutions Act” or the “ACRES Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
7 **PORTS.**

8        *(a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION*  
9 *REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE*  
10 *PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—*

11            *(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fiscal*  
12 *year that begins after the date of the enactment of this*  
13 *Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary con-*  
14 *cerned shall include in the materials submitted in*  
15 *support of the President’s budget pursuant to section*  
16 *1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report on the*  
17 *number of acres of Federal land on which the Sec-*  
18 *retary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduc-*  
19 *tion activities during the preceding fiscal year.*

20            *(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the report*  
21 *required under paragraph (1), the Secretary con-*  
22 *cerned shall—*

23                    *(A) in determining the number of acres of*  
24 *Federal land on which the Secretary concerned*

1 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities  
2 during the period covered by the report—

3 (i) record acres of Federal land on  
4 which hazardous fuels reduction activities  
5 were completed during such period; and

6 (ii) record each acre described in  
7 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of  
8 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
9 activities were carried out on such acre dur-  
10 ing such period; and

11 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal land  
12 recorded in the report, include information on—

13 (i) which such acres are located in the  
14 wildland-urban interface;

15 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,  
16 moderate, or low) on the first and last day  
17 of the period covered by the report;

18 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-  
19 tivities completed for such acres, delineating  
20 between whether such activities were con-  
21 ducted—

22 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
23 source benefits; or

24 (II) through a planned project;

1                   (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous fuels  
2                   activities carried out during the period cov-  
3                   ered by the report;

4                   (v) the region or system unit in which  
5                   the acres are located; and

6                   (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
7                   fuels reduction activities on reducing the  
8                   risk of wildfire.

9                   (3) *TRANSPARENCY.*—The Secretary concerned  
10                  shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
11                  (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-  
12                  ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-  
13                  rior, as applicable.

14                  (b) *ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.*—

15                         (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 90 days after  
16                         the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
17                         concerned shall implement standardized procedures  
18                         for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
19                         activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

20                         (2) *ELEMENTS.*—The standardized procedures  
21                         required under paragraph (1) shall include—

22                                 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
23                                 the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
24                                 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

1           (B) *verification methods that validate*  
2           *whether such data accurately correlates to the*  
3           *hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out*  
4           *by the Secretary concerned;*

5           (C) *an analysis of the short- and long-term*  
6           *effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction ac-*  
7           *tivities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and*

8           (D) *for hazardous fuels reduction activities*  
9           *that occur partially within the wildland-urban*  
10           *interface, methods to distinguish which acres are*  
11           *located within the wildland-urban interface and*  
12           *which acres are located outside the wildland-*  
13           *urban interface.*

14           (3) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 2 weeks after im-*  
15           *plementing the standardized procedures required*  
16           *under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall*  
17           *submit to Congress a report that describes—*

18                   (A) *such standardized procedures; and*

19                   (B) *program and policy recommendations*  
20                   *to Congress to address any limitations in track-*  
21                   *ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction ac-*  
22                   *tivities under this subsection.*

23           (c) *GAO STUDY.*—*Not later than 2 years after the date*  
24           *of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the*  
25           *United States shall—*

1           (1) *conduct a study on the implementation of*  
2 *this Act, including any limitations with respect to—*

3                 (A) *reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-*  
4 *tivities under subsection (a); or*

5                 (B) *tracking data related to hazardous fuels*  
6 *reduction activities under subsection (b); and*

7           (2) *submit to Congress a report that describes the*  
8 *results of the study under paragraph (1).*

9           (d) *DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:*

10                 (1) *HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—*  
11 *The term “hazardous fuels reduction activity”—*

12                     (A) *means any vegetation management ac-*  
13 *tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including*  
14 *mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;*  
15 *and*

16                     (B) *does not include the awarding of con-*  
17 *tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-*  
18 *tivities.*

19                 (2) *FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal lands”*  
20 *means lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of*  
21 *the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.*

22                 (3) *SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-*  
23 *retary concerned” means—*

24                     (A) *the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-*  
25 *spect to National Forest System lands; and*

1                   (B) *the Secretary of the Interior, with re-*  
2                   *spect to public lands and units of the National*  
3                   *Park System.*

4                   (4) *WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term*  
5                   *“wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given the*  
6                   *term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restora-*  
7                   *tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).*



Union Calendar No. 149

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session

**H. R. 1567**

[Report No. 118-186, Part I]

---

---

## **A BILL**

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

---

---

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with  
an amendment

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the  
Committee of the Whole House on the State of the  
Union and ordered to be printed