

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7560

To require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to conduct a study of personal protective equipment worn by firefighters to determine the prevalence and concentration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself and Mr. POSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to conduct a study of personal protective equipment worn by firefighters to determine the prevalence and concentration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, 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 “Guaranteeing Equip-
5 ment Safety for Firefighters Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECH-**
2 **NOLOGY STUDY ON PER- AND**
3 **POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN PER-**
4 **SONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WORN BY**
5 **FIREFIGHTERS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Na-
8 tional Institute of Standards and Technology shall, in con-
9 sultation with the Director of the National Institute for
10 Occupational Safety and Health, complete a study of the
11 contents and composition of new and unused personal pro-
12 tective equipment worn by firefighters.

13 (b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—In carrying out the study
14 required by subsection (a), the Director of the National
15 Institute of Standards and Technology shall examine—

16 (1) the identity, prevalence, and concentration
17 of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly
18 known as “PFAS”) in the personal protective equip-
19 ment worn by firefighters;

20 (2) the conditions and extent to which per- and
21 polyfluoroalkyl substances are released into the envi-
22 ronment over time from the degradation of personal
23 protective equipment from normal use by fire-
24 fighters; and

1 (3) the relative risk of exposure to per- and
2 polyfluoroalkyl substances faced by firefighters
3 from—

4 (A) their use of personal protective equip-
5 ment; and

6 (B) degradation of personal protective
7 equipment from normal use by firefighters.

8 (c) REPORTS.—

9 (1) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not less frequently
10 than once each year for the duration of the study
11 conducted under subsection (a), the Director shall
12 submit to Congress a report on the progress of the
13 Director in conducting such study.

14 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days
15 after the date on which the Director completes the
16 study required by subsection (a), the Director shall
17 submit to Congress a report describing—

18 (A) the findings of the Director with re-
19 spect to the study; and

20 (B) recommendations on what additional
21 research or technical improvements to personal
22 protective equipment materials or components
23 should be pursued to avoid unnecessary occupa-
24 tional exposure among firefighters to per- and

1 polyfluoroalkyl substances through personal
2 protective equipment.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
5 appropriated to the Director \$2,500,000 for fiscal
6 year 2021 and \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2022.

7 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
8 made available to carry out this section shall supple-
9 ment and not supplant funds made available to the
10 Director for other purposes.

11 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH ON PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUB-**
12 **STANCES IN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIP-**
13 **MENT WORN BY FIREFIGHTERS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
15 date of the submittal of the report required by section
16 2(c)(2), the Director of the National Institute of Stand-
17 ards and Technology shall—

18 (1) issue a solicitation for research proposals to
19 carry out the research recommendations identified in
20 the report submitted under section 2(c); and

21 (2) award grants to applicants that submit re-
22 search proposals to develop safe alternatives to per-
23 and polyfluoroalkyl substances in personal protective
24 equipment.

1 (b) CRITERIA.—The Director shall select research
2 proposals to receive a grant under subsection (a) on the
3 basis of merit, using criteria identified by the Director,
4 including the likelihood that the research results will ad-
5 dress the findings of the Director with respect to the study
6 conducted under section 2(a).

7 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Any entity or group of 2
8 or more entities may submit to the Director a research
9 proposal in response to the solicitation for research pro-
10 posals under subsection (a), including—

- 11 (1) State and local agencies;
- 12 (2) public institutions, including public institu-
13 tions of higher education;
- 14 (3) private corporations; and
- 15 (4) nonprofit organizations.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
18 appropriated to the Director \$5,000,000 for fiscal
19 year 2023, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and
20 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 to carry out this
21 section.

22 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
23 made available to carry out this section shall supple-
24 ment and not supplant funds made available to the
25 Director for other purposes.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY FOR DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL IN-**
2 **STITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY**
3 **TO CONSULT WITH EXPERTS ON MATTERS**
4 **RELATING TO PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL**
5 **SUBSTANCES.**

6 In carrying out this Act, the Director of the National
7 Institute of Standards and Technology may consult with
8 Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, State
9 and local governments, and science and research institu-
10 tions determined by the Director to have scientific or ma-
11 terial interest in reducing unnecessary occupational expo-
12 sure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances by firefighters.

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