

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3753

To establish a grant program to encourage fire stations to establish or upgrade restroom, shower, and changing facilities to create more equitable conditions for women firefighters.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program to encourage fire stations to establish or upgrade restroom, shower, and changing facilities to create more equitable conditions for women firefighters.

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 “Fairness In Restrooms  
5 Existing in Stations Act” or the “FIRE Stations Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) most fire stations in use were built and  
2           planned with a single-gender workforce in mind;

3           (2) more than 50 percent of fire departments  
4           do not have a single woman on the department;

5           (3) women make up approximately 3.7 percent  
6           of all firefighters; and

7           (4) a few fire departments still assign women  
8           only to stations that have facilities for women, lim-  
9           iting the potential for promotion and advancement  
10          for women.

11 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

12          (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
13          rity shall make grants to eligible fire stations to enable  
14          such stations to establish or upgrade restroom, shower,  
15          and changing facilities to create more equitable conditions  
16          for women firefighters.

17          (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a grant  
18          under this Act, a fire station shall submit an application  
19          to the Secretary of Homeland Security at such time and  
20          in such format as the Secretary determines demonstrating  
21          that—

22                 (1) the fire station has a commitment to in-  
23                 creasing the number of women firefighters;

24                 (2) no funds received by a grant will be used  
25                 to displace any personnel; and

1           (3) such other criteria the Secretary considers  
2           appropriate.

3           (c) PRIORITY.—Priority shall be given to fire stations  
4           that have chemical facilities, refineries, and other high-  
5           risk industries within their jurisdiction.

6           (d) AMOUNT.—Grants provided under this Act shall  
7           be in an amount determined by the Secretary based on  
8           the size and demonstrated need of the fire station and not  
9           to exceed \$100,000.

10 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11           There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
12           retary of Homeland Security such sums as may be nec-  
13           essary to carry out this Act.

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