

(k) **APPLICABILITY.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to activities carried out pursuant to this section.

(l) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **ANNUAL REPORT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF FEMA.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter during the term of a grant awarded under this section, the recipient of the grant shall submit to the Administrator a report describing how the recipient used the amounts from the grant.

(2) **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date on which the rebuilding or renovation of fire facilities and stations are completed using grant funds under this section, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that provides an evaluation of the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(m) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 to carry out this section. Funds appropriated under this Act shall remain available until expended.

SA 86. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 83 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SULLIVAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. —. ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) **CAREER FIRE DEPARTMENT.**—The term “career fire department” means a fire department that has an all-paid force of firefighting personnel other than paid-on-call firefighters.

(3) **COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT.**—The term “combination fire department” means a fire department that has—

- (A) paid firefighting personnel; and
- (B) volunteer firefighting personnel.

(4) **EMS.**—The term “EMS” means emergency medical services.

(5) **NONAFFILIATED EMS ORGANIZATION.**—The term “nonaffiliated EMS organization” means a public or private nonprofit EMS organization that is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area in which the Administrator finds that EMS are adequately provided by a fire department.

(6) **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.**—The term “volunteer fire department” means a fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel.

(b) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—The Administrator shall establish a grant program to provide financial assistance to entities described in subsection (c) to modify, upgrade, and construct fire and EMS department facilities.

(c) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**—The Administrator may make a grant under this section to the following:

- (1) Career, volunteer, and combination fire departments.
- (2) Fire training facilities.

(3) **Nonaffiliated EMS organizations, combination and volunteer emergency medical stations** (except that for-profit EMS organizations are not eligible for a grant under this section).

(d) **APPLICATIONS.**—An entity described in subsection (c) seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(e) **MEETING FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall convene a meeting of qualified members of national fire service organizations and, at the discretion of the Administrator, qualified members of EMS organizations to obtain recommendations regarding the criteria for the awarding of grants under this section.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection, a qualified member of an organization is a member who—

- (A) is recognized for firefighting or EMS expertise;
- (B) is not an employee of the Federal Government; and

(C) in the case of a member of an EMS organization, is a member of an organization that represents—

(i) EMS providers that are affiliated with fire departments; or

(ii) nonaffiliated EMS providers.

(f) **PEER REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATION.**—The Administrator shall, in consultation with national fire service and EMS organizations, appoint fire service personnel to conduct peer reviews of applications received under subsection (d).

(g) **PRIORITY OF GRANTS.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall consider the findings and recommendations of the peer reviews carried out under subsection (f).

(h) **USES OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A recipient of a grant under this section may use funds received for the following:

(A) Building, rebuilding, or renovating fire and EMS department facilities.

(B) Upgrading existing facilities to install exhaust emission control systems, install backup power systems, upgrade or replace environmental control systems (such as HVAC systems), remove or remediate mold, and construct or modify living quarters for use by male and female personnel.

(C) Upgrading fire and EMS stations or building new stations.

(2) **CODE COMPLIANT.**—In using funds under paragraph (1), a recipient of a grant under this section shall meet 1 of the 2 most recently published editions of relevant codes and standards, especially codes and standards that—

(A) require up-to-date hazard resistant and safety provisions; and

(B) are relevant for protecting firefighter health and safety.

(i) **GRANT FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall allocate grant funds under this section as follows:

(A) 25 percent for career fire and EMS departments.

(B) 25 percent for combination fire and EMS departments.

(C) 25 percent for volunteer fire and EMS departments.

(D) 25 percent to remain available for competition between the various department types.

(2) **INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.**—If the Administrator does not receive sufficient funding requests from a particular department type described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), the Administrator may make awards to other departments described in such subparagraphs.

(3) **LIMITATION ON AWARDS AMOUNTS.**—A recipient of a grant under this section may not receive more than \$7,500,000 under this section.

(j) **PREVAILING RATE OF WAGE AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction work financed with the assistance of any contribution of Federal funds made by the Administrator under this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

(2) **OVERTIME.**—Each employee described in paragraph (1) shall receive compensation at a rate not less than one and ½ times the basic rate of pay of the employee for all hours worked in any workweek in excess of 8 hours in any workday or 40 hours in the workweek, as the case may be.

(3) **ASSURANCES.**—The Administrator shall make no contribution of Federal funds without first obtaining adequate assurance that the labor standards described in paragraphs (1) and (2) will be maintained upon the construction work.

(4) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF LABOR.**—The Secretary of Labor shall have, with respect to the labor standards described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

(5) **PUBLIC CONTRACTS.**—Contractors and subcontractors performing construction work pursuant to this section shall procure only manufactured articles, materials, and supplies that have been manufactured in the United States substantially all from articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States in accordance with the requirements (and exceptions thereto) applicable to Federal agencies under chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

(k) **APPLICABILITY.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to activities carried out pursuant to this section.

(l) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **ANNUAL REPORT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF FEMA.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter during the term of a grant awarded under this section, the recipient of the grant shall submit to the Administrator a report describing how the recipient used the amounts from the grant.

(2) **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date on which the rebuilding or renovation of fire facilities and stations are completed using grant funds under this section, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that provides an evaluation of the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(m) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 to carry out this section. Funds appropriated under this Act shall remain available until expended.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I have 11 requests for committees to

meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, CLIMATE, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Subcommittee on Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed

Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 4:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, before I begin my floor remarks, let me just ask unanimous consent that several individuals who serve in my personal office and on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works majority staff be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of this Congress. Their names are Daniel Kim, Victoria Carle, Linnea Saby, Nicole Comisky, and Matthew Marzano.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to my fellows for the rest of the year: Abbie Lyons, Aaron Stuvland, Doson Nguyen, and Robert Bruce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 28, S. 870; further, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on the Paul and Hagerty amendments as provided under the previous order; that following the disposition of the Hagerty amendment, Senator TUBERVILLE or his designee be recognized to make a motion to proceed to Calendar No. 35, S.J. Res. 10; that the time until 4:15 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and with the final 15 minutes equally divided in the same form; that the Senate recess from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. to allow for the all-Senators briefing, with the time counting equally to both sides.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator MURKOWSKI, to whom I express gratitude for her courtesy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

S. 870

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased that we are at this point in the Senate calendar when we are talking about legislation on the floor. We have S. 870, which is the Fire Grants and Safety Act. I am a sponsor, a proud cosponsor of this measure.

My State of Alaska routinely faces severe fire seasons every year. As co-chair of the Senate Fire Caucus, I follow these issues very carefully. Whether they are wildland fires or fires in our urban centers, I believe we have a bill in front of us, a measure in front of us, that deserves all of our support.

The Fire Grants and Safety Act is a pretty simple bill. It is not very often that we actually have things that are simple and short, and this one is just a few pages long. It reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, as well as the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program. That is the SAFER Program. It reauthorizes all of these through 2030, instead of allowing them to expire next year. The Fire Administration's authorization is increased slightly, but the rest are basically straight extensions here.

As I mentioned, it is a pretty simple bill, but I think it is important to appreciate and understand the importance because sometimes I think these programs are underappreciated. They help our local fire departments recruit personnel—pretty important, we have got to get those firefighters to us—but not only to recruit them but to retain them as well. It also helps allow them to purchase updated vehicles and equipment.

We also help our fire stations by providing for safety and rescue training as well as health screenings.

The Fire Grants and Safety Act is also a very timely measure and not just because we are looking at these programs nearing their expiration date, but our U.S. Fire Administrator has reminded us that "America is still burning." That is the quote. Last year, fires destroyed over 1 million structures and over 7.5 million acres of land across the country.

Again, in the State of Alaska, it is not unusual that we have 1 million-plus acres burn each season, and in many seasons, well more than a million.

But in addition to dealing with the impact to the land and to structures that are on them, it is a safety issue that comes with fighting fires. Approximately, 2,500 people, including 96 firefighters, have died because of these fires. Again, as we are seeing wildfires become larger and more catastrophic, the danger that it presents from a health-safety perspective but also the devastation and impact to the land becomes that much greater.

In our State in Alaska, our geography and really our lack of core infrastructure oftentimes makes it harder to respond, sometimes really not possible at all. But you have got wildfires