

TITLE 15 - COMMERCE AND TRADE**CHAPTER 7 - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY****§ 278f. Fire Research Center****(a) Establishment; programs of research; functions of Secretary; dissemination of information**

There is hereby established within the Department of Commerce a Fire Research Center which shall have the mission of performing and supporting research on all aspects of fire with the aim of providing scientific and technical knowledge applicable to the prevention and control of fires. The content and priorities of the research program shall be determined in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration. In implementing this section, the Secretary is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts or grants, a fire research program, including—

- (1) basic and applied fire research for the purpose of arriving at an understanding of the fundamental processes underlying all aspects of fire. Such research shall include scientific investigations of—
 - (A) the physics and chemistry of combustion processes;
 - (B) the dynamics of flame ignition, flame spread, and flame extinguishment;
 - (C) the composition of combustion products developed by various sources and under various environmental conditions;
 - (D) the early stages of fires in buildings and other structures, structural subsystems and structural components in all other types of fires, including, but not limited to, forest fires, brush fires, fires underground, oil blowout fires, and waterborne fires, with the aim of improving early detection capability;
 - (E) the behavior of fires involving all types of buildings and other structures and their contents (including mobile homes and highrise buildings, construction materials, floor and wall coverings, coatings, furnishings, and other combustible materials), and all other types of fires, including forest fires, brush fires, fires underground, oil blowout fires, and waterborne fires;
 - (F) the unique fire hazards arising from the transportation and use, in industrial and professional practices, of combustible gases, fluids, and materials;
 - (G) design concepts for providing increased fire safety consistent with habitability, comfort, and human impact in buildings and other structures;
 - (H) such other aspects of the fire process as may be deemed useful in pursuing the objectives of the fire research program; and
 - (I) methods, procedures, and equipment for arson prevention, detection, and investigation;
- (2) research into the biological, physiological, and psychological factors affecting human victims of fire, and the performance of individual members of fire services, including—
 - (A) the biological and physiological effects of toxic substances encountered in fires;
 - (B) the trauma, cardiac conditions, and other hazards resulting from exposure to fire;
 - (C) the development of simple and reliable tests for determining the cause of death from fires;
 - (D) improved methods of providing first aid to victims of fires;
 - (E) psychological and motivational characteristics of persons who engage in arson, and the prediction and cure of such behavior;
 - (F) the conditions of stress encountered by firefighters, the effects of such stress, and the alleviation and reduction of such conditions; and
 - (G) such other biological, psychological, and physiological effects of fire as have significance for purposes of control or prevention of fires; and
- (3) operation tests, demonstration projects, and fire investigations in support of the activities set forth in this section.

NB: This unofficial compilation of the U.S. Code is current as of Jan. 5, 2009 (see <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscprint.html>).

The Secretary shall insure that the results and advances arising from the work of the research program are disseminated broadly. He shall encourage the incorporation, to the extent applicable and practicable, of such results and advances in building codes, fire codes, and other relevant codes, test methods, fire service operations and training, and standards. The Secretary is authorized to encourage and assist in the development and adoption of uniform codes, test methods, and standards aimed at reducing fire losses and costs of fire protection.

(b) Authorization of appropriations

For purposes of this section, there are authorized to be appropriated an amount not to exceed \$5,650,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980, which amount includes—

- (1) \$525,000 for programs which are recommended in the report submitted to the Congress by the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration pursuant to section 2220 (b)(1)¹ of this title; and
- (2) \$119,000 for adjustments required by law in salaries, pay, retirement, and employee benefits.

Footnotes

¹ See References in Text note below.

(Mar. 3, 1901, ch. 872, § 16, as added Pub. L. 93–498, § 18, Oct. 29, 1974, 88 Stat. 1545; amended Pub. L. 94–411, § 1(b), Sept. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 1254; Pub. L. 95–422, §§ 1(b), 2 (b), 3 (b), Oct. 5, 1978, 92 Stat. 932, 933; Pub. L. 96–121, § 3, Nov. 16, 1979, 93 Stat. 863.)

References in Text

Section 2220 (b)(1) of this title, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), was repealed by Pub. L. 106–503, title I, § 110(a)(1)(D), Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2302.

Prior Provisions

A prior section 16 of act Mar. 3, 1901, as added by act Mar. 1, 1968, Pub. L. 90–259, title I, § 102, 82 Stat. 35, related to fire research and safety programs, prior to repeal by act Oct. 29, 1974.

Amendments

1979—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96–121 substituted provisions authorizing to be appropriated an amount not to exceed \$5,650,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1980, for provisions authorizing appropriations not to exceed \$1,275,000 for the transitional fiscal quarter of July 1, 1976, through Sept. 30, 1976, not to exceed \$5,500,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1977, not to exceed \$6,000,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1978, and not to exceed \$5,600,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1979, and added pars. (1) and (2).

1978—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 95–422, §§ 2(b), 3 (b), in provisions preceding par. (1) substituted “United States Fire Administration” for “National Fire Prevention and Control Administration” and added par. (1)(I).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 95–422, § 1(b), inserted provision authorizing appropriation of not to exceed \$5,600,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1979.

1976—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94–411 substituted provisions authorizing to be appropriated not to exceed \$1,275,000 for the transitional fiscal quarter of July 1, 1976, through Sept. 30, 1976, not to exceed \$5,500,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1977, and not to exceed \$6,000,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1978, for provisions authorizing to be appropriated not to exceed \$3,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, and not to exceed \$4,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976.

Termination of Advisory Councils

Advisory councils in existence on Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period following Jan. 5, 1973, unless, in the case of a council established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such council is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a council established by the Congress, its duration is otherwise provided by law. See sections 3(2) and 14 of Pub. L. 92–463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, 776, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Combination of Fire Research and Building Technology Programs

Pub. L. 102-245, title I, § 104(g), Feb. 14, 1992, 106 Stat. 11, provided that: "The fire research and building technology programs of the Institute may be combined for administrative purposes only, and separate budget accounts for fire research and building technology shall be maintained. No later than December 31, 1992, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Institute, shall report to Congress on the results of the combination, on efforts to preserve the integrity of the fire research and building technology programs, on the long-range basic and applied research plans of the two programs, on procedures for receiving advice on fire and earthquake research priorities from constituencies concerned with public safety, and on the relation between the combined program at the Institute and the United States Fire Administration."

National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

Pub. L. 90-259, §§ 101, 103, 104, and 201-207, established the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, directed the commission to study and investigate measures to reduce the destructive effects of fire throughout the country, and provided that the commission cease to exist thirty days after the submission of its report which was to be made no later than two years after the commission had been organized.

Executive Order No. 11654

Ex. Ord. No. 11654, Mar. 13, 1972, 37 F.R. 5361, which established in the Department of Commerce the Federal Fire Council and provided for its membership, functions, etc., was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 12379, § 19, Aug. 17, 1982, 47 F.R. 36100, set out as a note under section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.