

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 231

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, 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 “Protecting Firefighters
5 from Adverse Substances Act” or the “PFAS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PREVENT EXPOSURE TO**
2 **AND RELEASE OF PFAS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
5 Federal Emergency Management Agency, in consultation
6 with the Administrator of the United States Fire Adminis-
7 tration, the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-
8 tion Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Oc-
9 cupational Safety and Health, and the heads of any other
10 relevant agencies, shall—

11 (1) develop and publish guidance for firefighters
12 and other emergency response personnel on training,
13 education programs, and best practices to—

14 (A) reduce the exposure to per- and
15 polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly referred
16 to as “PFAS”) from firefighting foam and per-
17 sonal protective equipment; and

18 (B) limit or prevent the release of PFAS
19 from firefighting foam into the environment;

20 (2) develop and issue guidance to firefighters
21 and other emergency response personnel on alter-
22 native foams, personal protective equipment, and
23 other firefighting tools and equipment that do not
24 contain PFAS; and

25 (3) create an online public repository, which
26 shall be updated on a regular basis, on tools and

1 best practices for firefighters and other emergency
2 response personnel to reduce, limit, and prevent the
3 release of and exposure to PFAS.

4 (b) REQUIRED CONSULTATION.—In developing the
5 guidance required under subsection (a), the Administrator
6 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall con-
7 sult with appropriate interested entities, including—

8 (1) firefighters and other emergency response
9 personnel, including national fire service and emer-
10 gency response organizations;

11 (2) impacted communities dealing with PFAS
12 contamination;

13 (3) scientists, including public and occupational
14 health and safety experts, who are studying PFAS
15 and PFAS alternatives in firefighting foam;

16 (4) voluntary standards organizations engaged
17 in developing standards for firefighter and fire-
18 fighting equipment;

19 (5) State fire training academies;

20 (6) State fire marshals;

21 (7) manufacturers of firefighting tools and
22 equipment; and

23 (8) any other relevant entities, as determined
24 by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency

1 Management Agency and the Administrator of the
2 United States Fire Administration.

3 (c) REVIEW OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than 3 years
4 after the date on which the guidance required under sub-
5 section (a) is issued, and not less frequently than once
6 every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator of the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the
8 Administrator of the United States Fire Administration,
9 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agen-
10 cy, and the Director of the National Institute for Occupa-
11 tional Safety and Health, shall review the guidance and,
12 as appropriate, issue updates to the guidance.

13 (d) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advi-
14 sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to
15 this Act.

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