

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 204

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2025

Mr. TIFFANY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, 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 “Accurately Counting
5 Risk Elimination Solutions Act” or the “ACRES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**
2 **PORTS.**

3 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
4 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE
5 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-
7 cal year that begins after the date of the enactment
8 of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
9 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-
10 mitted in support of the President's budget pursuant
11 to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a re-
12 port on the number of acres of Federal land on
13 which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous
14 fuels reduction activities during the preceding fiscal
15 year.

16 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-
17 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary
18 concerned shall—

19 (A) in determining the number of acres of
20 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned
21 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities
22 during the period covered by the report—

23 (i) record acres of Federal land on
24 which hazardous fuels reduction activities
25 were completed during such period; and

1 (ii) record each acre described in
2 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of
3 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction
4 activities were carried out on such acre
5 during such period; and

6 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal
7 land recorded in the report, include information
8 on—

9 (i) which such acres are located in the
10 wildland-urban interface;

11 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,
12 moderate, or low) on the first and last day
13 of the period covered by the report;

14 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-
15 tivities completed for such acres, delin-
16 eating between whether such activities
17 were conducted—

18 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-
19 source benefits; or

20 (II) through a planned project;

21 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous
22 fuels activities carried out during the pe-
23 riod covered by the report;

24 (v) the region or system unit in which
25 the acres are located; and

1 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous
2 fuels reduction activities on reducing the
3 risk of wildfire.

4 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned
5 shall make each report submitted under paragraph
6 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-
7 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-
8 rior, as applicable.

9 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 concerned shall implement standardized procedures
13 for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduc-
14 tion activities carried out by the Secretary con-
15 cerned.

16 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures
17 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

18 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
19 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
20 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

21 (B) verification methods that validate
22 whether such data accurately correlates to the
23 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
24 by the Secretary concerned;

1 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
2 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction
3 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

4 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
5 that occur partially within the wildland-urban
6 interface, methods to distinguish which acres
7 are located within the wildland-urban interface
8 and which acres are located outside the
9 wildland-urban interface.

10 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-
11 plementing the standardized procedures required
12 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
13 submit to Congress a report that describes—

14 (A) such standardized procedures; and

15 (B) program and policy recommendations
16 to Congress to address any limitations in track-
17 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction
18 activities under this subsection.

19 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
21 of the United States shall—

22 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of
23 this Act, including any limitations with respect to—

24 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-
25 tivities under subsection (a); or

1 (B) tracking data related to hazardous
2 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);
3 and

4 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
5 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

7 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-
8 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-
9 ity”—

10 (A) means any vegetation management ac-
11 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including
12 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;
13 and

14 (B) does not include the awarding of con-
15 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-
16 tivities.

17 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal
18 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the
19 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-
20 culture.

21 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
22 retary concerned” means—

23 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
24 spect to National Forest System lands; and

1 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
2 spect to public lands and units of the National
3 Park System.

4 (4) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
5 “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given
6 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
7 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

8 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-
9 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements
10 of this Act, and the activities authorized by this Act are
11 subject to the availability of appropriations made in ad-
12 vance for such purposes.

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