

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1747

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide direct hire authority to appoint individuals to Federal firefighting and firefighting support positions in the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2021

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide direct hire authority to appoint individuals to Federal firefighting and firefighting support positions in the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, 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 “Direct Hire To Fight
5 Fires”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Veterans are an appreciated and sought
2 after population for positions within the Forest
3 Service and in the positions contained in this Act.

4 (2) Veterans deserve expedited hiring and em-
5 ployment.

6 (3) In fiscal year 2020, the use of the Fire Di-
7 rect Hire Authority (“DHA”) was on average 31
8 days compared to non-use of the Fire DHA at 51
9 days and overall Forest Service (“FS”) hiring at 65
10 days.

11 (4) In fiscal year 2021, the use of the Fire
12 DHA was on average 40 days compared to non-use
13 of Fire DHA at 94 days and overall FS hiring at
14 73 days.

15 (5) In fiscal year 2020, the number of days
16 from authorization to employee entry on duty aver-
17 aged 55 days with the use of the Fire DHA com-
18 pared to non-use of the Fire DHA at 103 days and
19 overall FS hiring at 92 days.

20 (6) In fiscal year 2021, the number of days
21 from authorization to employee entry on duty aver-
22 aged 57 days with the use of the Fire DHA com-
23 pared to non-use of the Fire DHA at 105 days and
24 overall FS hiring at 94 days.

1 **SEC. 3. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT INDIVID-**
2 **UALS TO FEDERAL FIREFIGHTING AND FIRE-**
3 **FIIGHTING SUPPORT POSITIONS IN THE FOR-**
4 **EST SERVICE OR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE**
5 **INTERIOR.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 96 of title 5, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 **“§ 9603. Direct hire authority to appoint individuals**
10 **to Federal firefighting and firefighting**
11 **support positions in Forest Service and**
12 **Department of the Interior**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
14 and the Secretary of Interior may appoint, without regard
15 to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 (other than
16 sections 3303 and 3328 of such chapter), qualified can-
17 didates to any position described in subsection (b) in the
18 Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, respec-
19 tively.

20 “(b) POSITIONS.—A position described in this sub-
21 section is any Federal wildland and structural firefighting
22 position, or any position in support of such firefighting
23 position, within any of the following occupational series
24 (or any successor series):

25 “(1) Forestry Technician Series, GS–0462.

26 “(2) Aircraft Operation Series, GS–2181.

1 “(3) Miscellaneous Administration and Pro-
2 gram Series, GS–0301.

3 “(4) General Natural Resources Management
4 and Biological Sciences Series, GS–0401.

5 “(5) Aviation Management Specialist Series,
6 GS–2101.

7 “(6) Engineering Equipment Operator, WG–
8 5716.

9 “(7) Dispatching Series, GS–2151.

10 “(8) Equipment Specialist, GS–1670.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
12 for such chapter is amended by adding after the item re-
13 lating to section 9602 the following:

“9603. Direct hire authority to appoint individuals to Federal firefighting and
firefighting support positions in Forest Service and Depart-
ment of the Interior.”.

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