

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4821, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

1 SEC. _____. (a) Chapter 96 of title 5, United States
2 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

3 **“§ 9603. Direct hire authority to appoint individuals**
4 **to Federal wildland firefighting and fire-**
5 **fighting support positions in Forest Serv-**
6 **ice and Department of the Interior**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
8 and the Secretary of the Interior may appoint, without
9 regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3318
10 of title 5, United States Code, and part 211 and part 337
11 of subpart A of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, quali-
12 fied candidates to any position described in subsection (b)
13 in the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior,
14 respectively.

15 “(b) POSITIONS.—A position described in this sub-
16 section is any Federal wildland firefighting position, or
17 any position in support of such firefighting position, with-
18 in any of the following occupational series (or any suc-
19 cessor series):

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

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

3 “(3) Miscellaneous Administration and Pro-
4 gram Series, GS–0301, that supports firefighting
5 and is eligible for primary or secondary firefighter
6 retirement coverage.

7 “(4) General Natural Resources Management
8 and Biological Sciences Series, GS–0401, that sup-
9 ports firefighting and is eligible for primary or sec-
10 ondary firefighter retirement coverage.

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

13 “(6) Engineering Equipment Operator, WG,
14 WL, or WS–5716, that supports firefighting and is
15 eligible for primary or secondary firefighter retire-
16 ment coverage.

17 “(7) Dispatching Series, GS–2151, that sup-
18 ports firefighting and is eligible for primary or sec-
19 ondary firefighter retirement coverage.

20 “(8) Equipment Specialist, GS–1670. “(9) Any
21 additional occupational series developed specifically
22 for wildland firefighting.”

23 (b) The table of sections for such chapter is amended
24 by adding after the item relating to section 9602 the fol-
25 lowing:

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

1 (c)(1) Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
2 ment of this Act, the Secretaries, in consultation with the
3 Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall im-
4 plement policies to recruit and retain wildland firefighters
5 that—

6 (A) reduce the amount of time required to hire
7 wildland firefighters and wildland firefighting sup-
8 port personnel;

9 (B) address and eliminate redundancies in the
10 Federal hiring process for wildland firefighters and
11 wildland firefighting support personnel;

12 (C) streamline the process for hiring wildland
13 firefighters and wildland firefighting support per-
14 sonnel who were employed by the agencies in prior
15 years; and

16 (D) reduce barriers for wildland firefighters
17 transferring between agencies.

18 (2)(A) Beginning 1 year after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretaries
20 shall each submit a report to the relevant Congressional
21 Committees that includes the information described in
22 subparagraph (B) no later than February 1st of each cal-
23 endar year.

1 (B) As part of the report submitted under subpara-
2 graph (A), the Secretaries shall include information re-
3 garding—

4 (i) the number of wildland firefighters and
5 wildland firefighting support personnel the agency
6 anticipates it will need for that calendar year, delin-
7 eated by position;

8 (ii) the number of hiring events the agency is
9 planning to hold that calendar year;

10 (iii) the number of wildland firefighters and
11 wildland firefighting support personnel currently em-
12 ployed by the agency, delineated by position;

13 (iv) the number of wildland firefighting vacan-
14 cies by State;

15 (v) any barriers the agency is facing to meet
16 the hiring goal outlined in paragraph (1);

17 (vi) the implementation of the direct hiring au-
18 thority provided in this subsection;

19 (vii) the implementation of the streamlined hir-
20 ing policies developed under paragraph (1); and

21 (viii) recommendations to Congress to further
22 improve the recruitment and retention of wildland
23 firefighters and wildland firefighting support per-
24 sonnel.

1 (C) The Secretaries shall each annually publish the
2 report submitted under subparagraph (A) on a publicly
3 available website.

4 (D) In this subsection:

5 (i) The term “agency” means—

6 (I) the Forest Service, with respect to Na-
7 tional Forest System lands; and

8 (II) the Department of the Interior, with
9 respect to lands under the jurisdiction of the
10 Secretary of the Interior.

11 (ii) The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
12 tees” means—

13 (I) the Committees on Oversight and Ac-
14 countability, Agriculture, and Natural Re-
15 sources of the House of Representatives; and

16 (II) the Committees on Homeland Security
17 and Governmental Affairs, Agriculture, Nutri-
18 tion, and Forestry and Energy and Natural Re-
19 sources of the Senate.

20 (iii) The term “Secretaries” means the Sec-
21 retary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Inte-
22 rior.

