

HR 7978

Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Aug 7, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. (Sep 24, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7978>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Aug 7, 2020
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Aug 7, 2020
Rep. Cox, TJ [D-CA-21]	D · CA		Aug 7, 2020
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Aug 7, 2020
Rep. Gianforte, Greg [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Aug 7, 2020
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Aug 7, 2020
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Aug 7, 2020
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Oct 9, 2020
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Oct 9, 2020
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Oct 20, 2020
Rep. Cisneros, Gilbert Ray, Jr. [D-CA-39]	D · CA		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]	D · CA		Nov 5, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	Aug 7, 2020
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Aug 7, 2020
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Aug 7, 2020
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Aug 7, 2020
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 24, 2020
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 24, 2020
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 10, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4431	Identical bill	Sep 16, 2020: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 116-380.

Summary (as of Aug 7, 2020)

Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020

This bill addresses wildfire preparedness and response.

Among other things, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to select three forest landscapes on which to conduct projects to reduce the risk of wildfire, restore ecological health, or adapt to the increased risk of wildfire due to climate change.

USDA and the Department of the Interior shall expedite the placement of wildfire detection equipment in areas at risk of wildfire, expedite related permitting, expand the use of satellite data to assist wildfire response, and establish a center to train individuals in methods to mitigate wildfire risk.

The bill excludes certain forest management activities from environmental review requirements.

Interior may make a determination that an emergency situation exists regarding National Forest System land and authorize specified emergency actions. Such a determination and such actions are not subject to administrative review.

Interior shall provide grants, loans, and loan guarantees to support biomass conversion facilities.

The bill allows the export of unprocessed timber of dead and dying trees from federal land in California.

Interior shall establish a grant program to assist in the development and utilization of innovative activities relating to workforce development in the forest sector, raise public awareness about the forest sector, and connect individuals to careers in the forest sector.

The Department of Energy shall provide support to improve the energy resilience, power needs, and energy efficiency of critical facilities.

Actions Timeline

- Sep 24, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
- Sep 24, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- Aug 10, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.
- Aug 7, 2020: Introduced in House
- Aug 7, 2020: Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, 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.