

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
BILLS IMPACTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
BEFORE THE 110TH CONGRESS
AS OF JANUARY, 31 2007**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

H.R. 1, Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/05/2007 by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS). This bill passed the House by a vote of 299-128. On 01/09/2007 the bill was received by the Senate and was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bill would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 by giving Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the responsibility of allocating grants to states for every aspect of emergency preparedness for terrorism. States with an international border would be eligible to receive more money than those located in the interior. The bill would also require: (1) grants for improved communications; (2) all cargo to be inspected on passenger aircraft; (3) an accelerated effort in an international biometrics system; (4) an increased effort in the sharing of information; (5) the creation of a sub-department of DHS to be known as Infrastructure Prevention; (6) and the creation of an independent agency known as the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight within the executive. The bill suggests the implementation of private sector awareness efforts regarding emergency management and expresses Congress' wish that the Proliferation Security Initiative be among the President's main concerns.

H.R. 21, Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources as well as the Committee on Science and Technology. This bill would "establish a national policy for our oceans, to strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a national and regional ocean governance structure".

H.R. 64, To Direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to Establish an Independent Panel to Assess the Homeland Security Needs of the National Capital Region

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett (R-MD). Upon introduction, this bill was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. This bill would establish an independent panel whose responsibility it would be to determine the homeland security needs of the National Capitol Region. More specifically, the bill charges the panel with the responsibilities of: (1) assessing the definition of the National Capitol Region in a geographic sense; (2) deciding to what extent areas in Maryland and Virginia should be helping the National Capitol Region prepare for a terrorist attack; (3) and establishing any necessary funding that Maryland and Virginia may need, based on section "(2)". Finally, the bill requires the panel to report to Congress within 18 months of its establishment.

H.R. 91, Homeowners Insurance Protection Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Ginny Brown Waite (R-FL). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. This bill would instruct “the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the National Commission on Catastrophe Preparation and Protection to advise the Secretary regarding estimated loss costs associated with contracts for reinsurance coverage”.

H.R. 99, To Provide for the Establishment of a Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD). Upon introduction it was referred to both the House Committee on Science and Technology and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bill would authorize the secretary of Transportation to utilize hazardous material transportation funds to establish research efforts in the field of hazardous materials. The research efforts are to benefit risk analysis and mitigation in an effort to support first responders.

H.R. 129, To direct the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to designate New Jersey Task Force 1 as part of the National Urban Search and Rescue System

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ). Upon introduction it was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bill would support the addition of more qualified urban search and rescue teams to FEMA’s National Urban Search and Rescue System. This bill would also designate New Jersey Task Force 1 as a member of the National Urban Search and Rescue System.

H.R. 130, To Authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to Make Grants to First Responders, and for Other Purposes

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ). Upon introduction it was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary Committee, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce. This bill would not affect any preexisting grant programs. This bill would also authorize the Fire Grant Program, Department of Justice Law Enforcement Grant Program, Emergency Management Planning and Assistance Account Grants, the Health and Human Services Grant Program, and the Byrne Memorial Formula Grants.

H.R. 164, Policyholder Disaster Protection Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Bobby Jindal (R-LA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. This bill “Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow insurance companies (other than life insurance companies) to make tax deductible contributions to a tax-exempt policyholder disaster protection fund established by this Act for the payment of policyholders' claims arising from certain catastrophic events, such as windstorms, earthquakes, fires, or floods.”

H.R. 179, Safe Access in Fire Emergencies Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Finance. This bill would ensure that all window bars have an internal quick release mechanism and confirm the authority of the Consumer Product Safety Commission over such window bars.

H.R. 211, Calling for 2-1-1 Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/04/2007 by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. This bill aims “to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on health and human services, including volunteer services”.

H.R. 250, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/05/2007 by Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-MI). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science and Technology. This bill would instruct the Department of Commerce to form and maintain a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

H.R. 265, Hurricane Katrina Disaster Inquiry Commission Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/05/2007 by Rep. Sheila Lee-Jackson (D-TX). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bill would establish a commission, appointed by the President, to investigate damages incurred from Hurricane Katrina.

H.R. 296, Area Security Initiative Improvement Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/05/2007 by Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. This bill would specify that the 100 most populous urban areas of the United States, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall be eligible for grants under the Urban Area Security Initiative of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 305, To prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from paroling into the United States an alien who falls ill while seeking admission at a port of entry or seeks emergency medical assistance by approaching an agent or official of the Department of Homeland Security at or near a border

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/05/2007 by Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. This bill would do just as the title suggests.

H.R. 330, Homeowners' Insurance Availability Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/09/2007 by Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. This bill would instruct the Secretary of the Treasury to implement a

reinsurance coverage program available only through contracts for reinsurance coverage purchased at regional auctions.

H.R. 344, To Ensure that Federal Emergency Management Funds Are Not Used for Crisis Counseling, Recreation, or Self Esteem Building Classes or Instruction

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/09/2007 by Rep. Tom Feeney (R-FL). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bill would entrust the Director of Emergency Management to o exactly as the title suggests.

H.R. 360, 9-11 Commission Combating Proliferation Implementation Act

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/09/2007 by Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher (D-CA). Upon introduction this bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. This bill would establish “within the Executive Office of the President the Office for Combating the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). [And would] require[s] the Director of the Office to: (1) develop and advise the President on WMD anti-proliferation policies; and (2) implement a Strategy for Combating the Proliferation of WMDs”.

H.R. 388, Unfair Chinese Automotive Tariff Equalization Act

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/10/2007 by Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. This bill would halt the importation of motor vehicles from the People’s Republic of China until the tariff rates placed on American made motor vehicles were proportionate to those placed on Chinese made motor vehicles entering the United States.

H.R. 389, Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/ 10/2007 by Rep. John R. “Randy” Kuhl. Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bill would amend “the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance to states for the rehabilitation and repair of deficient dams”.

H.R. 419, Natural Disaster Relief Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/11/2007 by Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Budget. This bill would entrust the Secretary of Agriculture to promote emergency funding to farmers in counties affected (directly or indirectly) by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita or Wilma.

H.R. 519, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to remove the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to expedited removal

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/17/2007 by Rep. John Doolittle (R-CA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. This bill would do just as the title suggests.

H.R. 534, to Provide for the Security and Safety of Rail and Rail Transit Transportation Systems, and for other Purposes

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/17/2007 by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Homeland Security. This bill would conduct a survey targeting vulnerability and increase funding for rail safety depending on the findings of the study.

H.R. 535, Rail Worker Emergency Training Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/17/2007 by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bill would provide a training program for rail workers in the event of an emergency.

H.R. 537, Commission on Catastrophic Disaster Risk and Insurance Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/17/2007 by Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-FL). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. This bill would create a bipartisan committee to evaluate the nation's insurance infrastructure as insurance and reinsurance shortages are expected due to hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

H.R. 561, Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/18/2007 by Rep. Phil English (R-PA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. This bill would "Expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should expand the visa waiver program to nationals of foreign countries that are allies in the war on terrorism".

H.R. 564, Disadvantaged Business Disaster Eligibility Act

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/18/2007 by Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business. This bill would extend (by 18 months) the time period for which a business could participate in the business development program under the Small Business Act, supposing the business in question was affected by a national disaster.

H.R. 599, to Direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to Streamline the SAFETY Act and Anti-Terrorism Technology Procurement Processes

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/22/2007 by Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. The bill then passed the House without amendment in a suspension of the rules. The bill was then referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 639, to Designate as HUBZones the Disaster Areas Associated with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/23/2007 by Rep. Bobby Jindal (R-LA). Upon Introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business. This

bill would federally promote small business growth in areas designated as having incurred natural disasters.

H.R. 647, Mark-to-Market Extension Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/23/2007 by Maxine Waters (D-CA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. This bill would amend “the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 to reauthorize through FY2011: (1) the Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured Multifamily Housing Mortgage and Housing Assistance Restructuring (Mark-to-Market) program; and (2) the Office of Multifamily Housing Assistance Restructuring”.

H.R. 659, Canine Detection Team Improvement Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/24/2007 by Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. This bill proposes funding and infrastructure for the use of recovery canines in Homeland Security.

H.R. 680, to Permit the Cancellation of Certain Loans under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/24/2007 by William Jefferson (D-LA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bill would amend the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 by allowing certain loans to be cancelled under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

S. 4, To Make the United States More Secure By Implementing Unfinished Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to Fight the War on Terror More Effectively, to Improve Homeland Security, and for Other Purposes

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/04/2007 by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV). Upon introduction it was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bill states that “Congress should enact, and the President should sign” legislation that supports unfulfilled recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission in order for the nation to become more secure.

S. 47, Law Enforcement Assistance Force Act of 2007 (LEAF Act)

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/04/2007 by Sen. John Ensign (R-NV). Upon introduction it was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bill would “establish a Law Enforcement Assistance Force” that would organize retired law enforcement officers to best utilize their relevant resources during major disasters. The bill also states that anyone may participate in the Law Enforcement Assistance Force if they: (1) have “experience working as an officer or agent for a public law enforcement agency and left the agency in good standing.”; (2) hold “current certifications for firearms, first aid and such other skills determined necessary by the” Secretary of Homeland Security; (3) and submit an application that allows the secretary to review their service record. Concerning liability, the bill gives the retired agents the same protection from civil liability as granted to employees of the

Department of Homeland Security (DHS). An eligible participant may choose to decline an assignment with no penalty, but once an assignment is accepted the eligible participant is bound until his services are no longer required, or 30 days. Participants will be financially compensated by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA).

S. 74, a bill to Ensure Adequate Funding for High-Threat Areas, and for other Purposes

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/04/2007 by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bill would do exactly as the title suggests.

S. 87, To Permit the Cancellation of Certain Loans under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/04/2007 by Sen. David Vitter (R-LA). Upon introduction it was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bill would do exactly as the title suggests, and would be effective as though it were passed along with the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005.

S, 123, To Authorize the Project for Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction, Morganza, to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/04/2007 by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA). Upon introduction, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. If passed, this bill would give the Secretary of the Army authority to carry out the Project for Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction, Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana. The bill also names cost figures for the plan, and generally distinguishes between federal and non-federal responsibilities.

S. 136, National Domestic Preparedness Consortium Expansion Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/04/2007 by Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bill would expand the consortium to include national transportation centers.

S. 153, Healthy Firefighters Act

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/04/2007 by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. This bill would provide infrastructure to complete a long term study of firefighters who respond to national disaster scenes. S. 153 would also provide for a portion of the firefighter's medical care in certain situations.

S. 253, Disaster Loan Fairness Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/10/2007 by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bill would aim "to permit the cancellation of certain loans under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes".

S. 332, POWER Act of 2007

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/18/2007 by Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bill would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to clarify the investigative authorities of the privacy officer of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 342, Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/22/2007 by Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. This bill would “Expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should expand the visa waiver program to nationals of foreign countries that are allies in the war on terrorism”.

S. 385, Interoperable Emergency Communications Act

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 01/ 24/2007 by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI). Upon introduction the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Science, Commerce, and Transportation. This bill would establish government grants for interoperable communications technology.

H. Res. 72, A resolution recognizing the work and accomplishments of Mr. Britt ``Max'' Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center's Tropical Prediction Center upon his retirement.

This bill was introduced in the House on 01/17/2007 by Rep. Tim Mahoney (D-FL). Upon introduction, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology. This bill would do exactly as the title suggests.