

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
BILLS IMPACTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
BEFORE THE 111TH CONGRESS
AS OF FEBRUARY 25, 2009**

Disaster Preparedness:

H.R. 1081, To amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to extend the Public Assistance Pilot Program through December 31, 2009.

The bill was introduced by Marion Berry (D-AR) on February 2, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The bill seeks to extend the public assistance pilot program as outlined in the aforementioned title.

Disaster Response and Recovery

H.R. 119, To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to designate New Jersey Task Force 1 as part of the National Urban Search and Rescue System

The bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) on January 6, 2009. The bill directs the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) to entitle New Jersey Task Force 1 as part of the National Urban Search and Rescue System. The bill calls for the increased creation of urban search and rescue teams included in the National Urban Search and Rescue System. The bill was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Public Buildings, Economic Development, and Emergency Management.

H.R. 652, Skilled Trades Second Responders Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Peter King (R-NY) on January 22, 2009. On January 23, 2009 the bill was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. The bill amends the Public Health Service Act to create an all-inclusive national system for skilled, construction workers to assist first responders in disaster response and recovery situations.

H.R. 706, National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2009

This bill was introduced by Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN) on January 27, 2009 and was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management on January 28, 2009. The bill amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue to utilize and administer the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, and other purposes.

H.R. 431, Emergency Fueling Station Designation Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) on January 9, 2009. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. The bill provides for the availability of Federal assistance to assist an eligible State to purchase and install transfer switches and generators at designated emergency service stations. This provision would be made to address the shortage of fuel along hurricane evacuation routes across hurricane zones within States.

H.R. 645, National Emergency Centers Establishment Act

The bill was introduced by Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) on January 22, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, and the Committee on Armed Services. On February 6, 2009 the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities. The bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish no fewer than 6 national emergency centers on military installations.

H.R. 777, To prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency from updating flood maps until the Administrator submits to Congress a Community Outreach Plan, and for Other Purposes

The bill was introduced by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) on January 28, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. The bill will be enacted to accomplish those tasks outlined in the above title.

H.R. 1131, The Community Protection and Response Act of 2009

This bill was introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) on February 23, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Committee on Education and Labor. The bill was introduced to amend the Stafford Act to improve Federal response efforts after a terrorist strike or other major disaster affecting homeland security and for other purposes.

S. 412, The Federal Emergency Management Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) on February 11, 2009 and was read twice and a referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The bill would establish the Federal Emergency Management Agency as an independent establishment in the executive branch as defined under title 5 of the U.S. Code.

H.R. 888, Mortgage and Rental Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2009

This bill was introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) on February 4, 2009 and on February 5, 2009, the bill was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. The bill calls for the reauthorization of the temporary mortgage and rental payments program that was authorized under the "Stafford Act" but ended in 2002.

H.R. 941, Low-Income Rate Payer Disaster Recovery Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Rodney Alexander (R-LA) on February 2, 2009. On February 10, 2009, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The bill would amend the Stafford Act to provide for disaster assistance for electric companies serving low income households, and other purposes. The bill amends the language in the Stafford Act, while also adding language to expand relief for repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of facilities affected by a major disaster.

H.R. 1130, Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act

This bill was introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) on February 23, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The bill would amend the Stafford Act to change the terms of the community disaster loan program and for other purposes.

H.R. 1059 To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for an heir of a deceased homeowner to receive certain housing-related disaster assistance

The bill was introduced by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) on February 13, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The bill would amend the Stafford Act to extend housing-related disaster assistance to eligible heirs of deceased homeowners. In the event a homeowner dies, an eligible heir would be extended assistance relating to housing "possessions" affected by natural or manmade disaster.

Critical Infrastructure

H.R. 261, Chemical Facility Security Improvement Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on January 7, 2009. The bill was referred to the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure and the House Energy and Commerce Committee on February 5, 2009. The bill outlines qualifications for the approval of a site security plan for a chemical facility. For the Secretary of Homeland Security to use Federal funds to approve a site security plan for a chemical facility, the facility must meet or exceed security requirements established by the State or local government for the area in which the facility is located, to protect the site and facility from acts of terrorism.

NOAA/Weather Hazards Prevention

H.R. 327, National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) on January 8, 2009 and was referred to the House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Science Education. The bill would establish the National Hurricane Research Initiative. The goal of the National Hurricane Research Initiative would be to improve Hurricane Preparedness by increasing research, cooperation, and grant utilization and creation.

H.R. 308, Hurricane and Tornado Mitigation Investment Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Gus Bilirakas (R-FL) on January 8, 2009 and was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill was introduced to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against the tax for hurricane and tornado mitigation expenditures. Section 25E is added following section 25D in Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of Chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to outline and detail qualifications for the credit.

S. 171, Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) on January 8, 2009 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The bill seeks to develop and maintain an integrated and comprehensive system of coastal and ocean observations, for the Nation's coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes, to improve warnings for tsunamis, hurricanes, El Nino events, and other natural hazards, to enhance homeland security, to support maritime operations, to improve management of coastal and marine resources, and for other purposes.

Insurance

H.R. 83, Homeowners Insurance Protection Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL) on January 6, 2009 and referred the bill to House Committee on Financial Services. The bill would establish a program to solidify State natural catastrophe insurance programs to assist the United States in better preparing for and better protecting its citizens against damages incurred and experienced during national catastrophes, to incite mitigation and prevention for, and recovery and rebuilding from such catastrophes, and to more accurately assess and assist in the financial recovery associated with such catastrophes.

H.R. 998, Policyholder Disaster Protection Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Thomas Rooney (R-FL) on February 11, 2009 and it was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The bill amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the creation of disaster protection funds by property and casualty insurance companies for the payment of policyholders' claims resulting from future catastrophic events.

Border Security and Immigration

H.R. 670, Save Our Border Communities Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA) on January 26, 2009 and was referred to the House Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. The bill will authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to utilize Federal payment to first responders for costs associated with providing emergency services at all international borders of the United States, and for other purposes. The funds necessary to carry out the duties will be appropriated beginning with FY 2010.

Hurricane Katrina Specific

H.R. 62, Hurricane Katrina Disaster Inquiry Commission Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on January 6, 2009. The bill calls for the creation of an independent, Presidentially-appointed Commission to evaluate the circumstances surrounding all damage caused by Hurricane Katrina on, or between Friday, August 26, 2005 and Tuesday, August 30, 2005. The bill outlines the suggested personnel requirements for inclusion on this committee, totaling 15 active members. The bill also suggests areas of concentration for tasks to be completed by the commission. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Cyber Security

H.R. 266, Cybersecurity Education Enhancement Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on January 7, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology. The bill seeks to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to award grants to institutions of higher education for the establishment or expansion of cybersecurity professional development programs, and for other programs. Specifications were outlined regarding program details from leadership roles to effective establishment practices.

Homeland Security

H.RES. 28, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Transportation Security Administration should enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines

The bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on January 7, 2009. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. The bill emphasizes that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) should, as detailed in the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, enhance security measures related to terror attack and other threat to the nation's rail, and mass transit lines. Given the unique position of the Transportation Security Administration, the bill suggests that previous and current security measures be continued and new security measures be implemented to secure the millions of mass transit users each day.

H.R. 549, National Bombing Prevention Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Peter King (R -NY) on January 15, 2009. The bill was referred to the House committee on Homeland Security and passed the House on February 3, 2009. The bill was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on February 4, 2009. The bill would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish, within the Protective Security Coordination Division of the Office of Infrastructure Protection of the Department, the office for Bombing Prevention, to address terrorist explosive threats, and for other purposes.

H.R. 732, Targeting Homeland Security Resources Effectively Against Terrorism Act of 2009 (THREAT)

The bill was introduced by Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY) on January 27, 2009. On February 5, 2009 the bill was referred to the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communication, Preparedness, and Response. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security, under the grant program to implement discretionary grants for use in high threat, high-density, urban areas, and for other purposes. Under the bill, the Secretary may award grants to only 15 such areas and the selection criteria must include consideration of population, critical infrastructure, and credibility of threat assessment.

H.R. 121, Smarter Funding for All of America's Homeland Security Act of 2007

The bill was introduced by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) on January 6, 2009. The bill was referred to the House Homeland Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on February 9, 2009, as well as the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Homeland Security Committee. This bill gives the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to make grants applicable to first responders and for other purposes.

H.R. 791, First Responder Funding Modernization Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY) on February 2, 2009. On February 20, 2009, the bill was referred to the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communication, Preparedness, and Response. The bill prohibits the Department of Homeland Security from putting restrictions on the amount of Urban Area Security Initiative or State Homeland Security Grant Program funds that may be used to pay regular salaries or over-time pay of those law enforcement personnel engaged in anti-terror activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 553, Reducing Over-Classification Act

The bill was introduced by Rep Jane Harman (D-CA) on January 15, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. The bill was passed the House on February 3, 2009 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The bill would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to prevent the over-classification of homeland security and other information and to promote the sharing of unclassified homeland security and other information and for other purposes.

H.R. 625, Homeland Security Transparency Act of 2009

The bill was introduced by Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY) on January 21, 2009. On February 5, 2009 the bill was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. The bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to require, as a provision of receiving the benefit of a homeland security grant, that each recipient submit a detailed expenditures report of any expenditures involving grant funds.

Biosecurity/Emergency Medical

H.R. 1075 Restoring Essential Care for Our Veterans for Effective Recovery Act (RECOVER Act)

The bill was introduced by Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) on February 13, 2009 and was referred to the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs. The bill provides for the expansion to of access to hospital care for veterans in major disaster areas, and for other purposes.