

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4900

To establish a National Climate Change Vulnerability and Resilience Program,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2002

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma introduced the following bill; which was referred to  
the Committee on Science

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## A BILL

To establish a National Climate Change Vulnerability and  
Resilience Program, 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 “Weather Safety Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY AND**  
6 **RESILIENCE PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce  
8 shall establish a National Climate Change Vulnerability  
9 and Resilience Program (in this section referred to as the  
10 “Program”) for evaluating and making recommendations

1 with respect to local, regional, and national vulnerability  
2 and resilience to impacts related to both longer term cli-  
3 matic changes and shorter term climatic variations, in-  
4 cluding changes and variations resulting from human ac-  
5 tivities.

6 (b) CONSULTATION.—In designing the Program, the  
7 Secretary of Commerce shall consult with Federal agencies  
8 participating in the United States Global Change Re-  
9 search Program and any other appropriate Federal, State,  
10 or local agency.

11 (c) OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY  
12 AND RESILIENCE RESEARCH.—The Secretary of Com-  
13 merce shall establish an Office of Climate Change Vulner-  
14 ability and Resilience Research (in this section referred  
15 to as the “Office”) within the Department of Commerce,  
16 which shall be responsible for managing the Program and  
17 shall, in accordance with the design of the Program, co-  
18 ordinate climatic change and climatic variation vulner-  
19 ability and resilience research in the United States.

20 (d) VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS.—The Program  
21 shall include—

22 (1) evaluations, based on historical data, cur-  
23 rent observational data, and, where appropriate,  
24 available predictions, of local, State, regional, and

1 national vulnerability to phenomena associated with  
2 climatic change and climatic variation, including—

3 (A) severe weather events, such as severe  
4 thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes;

5 (B) annual and interannual climate events,  
6 such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and  
7 the North Atlantic Oscillation;

8 (C) changes in sea level and shifts in the  
9 hydrological cycle;

10 (D) natural hazards, including tsunamis,  
11 droughts, floods, and wildfires; and

12 (E) alterations of ecological communities  
13 as a result of climatic change and climatic vari-  
14 ation; and

15 (2) the production of a Vulnerability Scorecard,  
16 in cooperation with State and local institutions in-  
17 cluding university researchers and programs, that  
18 assesses each State's vulnerability and capacity to  
19 respond to climatic change and climatic variation  
20 hazards.

21 (e) PREPAREDNESS RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
22 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
23 the Office shall transmit to the Congress a report that—

24 (1) includes the Vulnerability Scorecards pro-  
25 duced under subsection (d)(2); and

1           (2) identifies, and recommends implementation  
2           and funding strategies for, short-term and long-term  
3           actions that may be taken at the local, State, re-  
4           gional, or national level—

5                   (A) to minimize climatic change and cli-  
6                   matic variation threats to human life and prop-  
7                   erty;

8                   (B) to minimize negative economic impacts  
9                   of climatic change and climatic variation; and

10                   (C) to improve resilience to climatic change  
11                   and climatic variation hazards.

12           (f) VULNERABILITY RESEARCH.—In addition to its  
13           other responsibilities under this section, the Office shall—

14                   (1) apply the results of available vulnerability  
15                   research to develop and improve criteria that meas-  
16                   ure resilience to climatic change and climatic vari-  
17                   ation hazards at the local, State, regional, and na-  
18                   tional levels;

19                   (2) coordinate the implementation of short-term  
20                   and long-term research programs based on the rec-  
21                   ommendations made under subsection (e)(2);

22                   (3) measure progress in increasing each State’s  
23                   capacity to respond to climatic change and climatic  
24                   variation hazards, using the Vulnerability Scorecards

1 produced under subsection (d)(2) as a benchmark;  
2 and

3 (4) review not less than annually and, when ad-  
4 ditional information becomes available making it ap-  
5 propriate, update the Vulnerability Scorecards and  
6 the recommendations made under subsection (e)(2).

7 (g) INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY DISSEMINA-  
8 TION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall make widely  
9 available appropriate information, technologies, and prod-  
10 ucts to assist local, State, regional, and national efforts  
11 to reduce loss of life and property due to climatic change  
12 and climatic variation, and shall coordinate the dissemina-  
13 tion of such information, technologies, and products  
14 through all appropriate channels.

15 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Com-  
17 merce \$10,000,000 for carrying out this section.

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