

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2746

To establish a Federal Liaison on Homeland Security in each State, to provide coordination between the Department of Homeland Security and State and local first responders, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2002

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish a Federal Liaison on Homeland Security in each State, to provide coordination between the Department of Homeland Security and State and local first responders, 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 “First Responders Sup-
5 port Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. HOMELAND SECURITY LIAISON OFFICERS.**

7 (a) CHIEF HOMELAND SECURITY LIAISON OFFI-

8 CER.—

1 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Home-
2 land Security shall appoint a Chief Homeland Secu-
3 rity Liaison Officer to coordinate the activities of the
4 Homeland Security Liaison Officers, designated
5 under subsection (b).

6 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Chief Homeland
7 Security Liaison Officer shall prepare an annual re-
8 port, that contains—

9 (A) a description of the State and local
10 priorities in each of the 50 States based on dis-
11 covered needs of first responder organizations,
12 including law enforcement agencies, fire and
13 rescue agencies, medical providers, emergency
14 service providers, and relief agencies;

15 (B) a needs assessment that identifies
16 homeland security functions in which the Fed-
17 eral role is duplicative of the State or local role,
18 and recommendations to decrease or eliminate
19 inefficiencies between the Federal Government
20 and State and local entities;

21 (C) recommendations to Congress regard-
22 ing the creation, expansion, or elimination of
23 any program to assist State and local entities to
24 carry out their respective functions under the
25 Department of Homeland Security; and

1 (D) proposals to increase the coordination
2 of Department of Homeland Security priorities
3 within each State and between the States.

4 (b) HOMELAND SECURITY LIAISON OFFICERS.—

5 (1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Home-
6 land Security shall designate in each State not less
7 than 1 employee of the Department of Homeland
8 Security to—

9 (A) serve as the Homeland Security Liai-
10 son Officer in that State; and

11 (B) provide coordination between the De-
12 partment of Homeland Security and State and
13 local first responders, including—

14 (i) law enforcement agencies;

15 (ii) fire and rescue agencies;

16 (iii) medical providers;

17 (iv) emergency service providers; and

18 (v) relief agencies.

19 (2) DUTIES.—Each Homeland Security Liaison
20 Officer designated under paragraph (1) shall—

21 (A) ensure coordination between the De-
22 partment of Homeland Security and—

23 (i) State, local, and community-based
24 law enforcement;

25 (ii) fire and rescue agencies; and

1 (iii) medical and emergency relief or-
2 ganizations;

3 (B) identify State and local areas requiring
4 additional information, training, resources, and
5 security;

6 (C) provide training, information, and edu-
7 cation regarding homeland security for State
8 and local entities;

9 (D) identify homeland security functions in
10 which the Federal role is duplicative of the
11 State or local role, and recommend ways to de-
12 crease or eliminate inefficiencies;

13 (E) assist State and local entities in pri-
14 ority setting based on discovered needs of first
15 responder organizations, including law enforce-
16 ment agencies, fire and rescue agencies, medical
17 providers, emergency service providers, and re-
18 lief agencies;

19 (F) assist the Department of Homeland
20 Security to identify and implement State and
21 local homeland security objectives in an efficient
22 and productive manner; and

23 (G) serve as a liaison to the Department of
24 Homeland Security in representing State and

1 local priorities and concerns regarding home-
2 land security.

3 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON FIRST RE-**
4 **SPONDERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established an Inter-
6 agency Committee on First Responders, that shall—

7 (1) ensure coordination among the Federal
8 agencies involved with—

9 (A) State, local, and community-based law
10 enforcement;

11 (B) fire and rescue operations; and

12 (C) medical and emergency relief services;

13 (2) identify community-based law enforcement,
14 fire and rescue, and medical and emergency relief
15 services needs;

16 (3) recommend new or expanded grant pro-
17 grams to improve community-based law enforcement,
18 fire and rescue, and medical and emergency relief
19 services;

20 (4) identify ways to streamline the process
21 through which Federal agencies support community-
22 based law enforcement, fire and rescue, and medical
23 and emergency relief services; and

24 (5) assist in priority setting based on discovered
25 needs.

1 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Committee on
2 First Responders shall be composed of—

3 (1) the Chief Homeland Security Liaison Offi-
4 cer of the Department of Homeland Security;

5 (2) a representative of the Health Resources
6 and Services Administration of the Department of
7 Health and Human Services;

8 (3) a representative of the Centers for Disease
9 Control and Prevention of the Department of Health
10 and Human Services;

11 (4) a representative of the Federal Emergency
12 Management Agency of the Department of Home-
13 land Security;

14 (5) a representative of the United States Coast
15 Guard of the Department of Homeland Security;

16 (6) a representative of the Department of De-
17 fense;

18 (7) a representative of the Office of Domestic
19 Preparedness of the Department of Homeland Secu-
20 rity;

21 (8) a representative of the Immigration and
22 Naturalization Service of the Department of Home-
23 land Security;

1 (9) a representative of the Transportation Secu-
2 rity Agency of the Department of Homeland Secu-
3 rity;

4 (10) a representative of the Federal Bureau of
5 Investigation of the Department of Justice; and

6 (11) representatives of any other Federal agen-
7 cy identified by the President as having a significant
8 role in the purposes of the Interagency Committee
9 on First Responders.

10 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Department of Home-
11 land Security shall provide administrative support to the
12 Interagency Committee on First Responders and the Advi-
13 sory Council, which shall include—

14 (1) scheduling meetings;

15 (2) preparing agenda;

16 (3) maintaining minutes and records;

17 (4) producing reports; and

18 (5) reimbursing Advisory Council members.

19 (d) LEADERSHIP.—The members of the Interagency
20 Committee on First Responders shall select annually a
21 chairperson.

22 (e) MEETINGS.—The Interagency Committee on
23 First Responders shall meet—

1 (1) at the call of the Chief Homeland Security
2 Liaison Officer of the Department of Homeland Se-
3 curity; or

4 (2) not less frequently than once every 3
5 months.

6 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE FEDERAL INTER-**
7 **AGENCY COMMITTEE ON FIRST RESPOND-**
8 **ERS.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an Advi-
10 sory Council for the Federal Interagency Committee on
11 First Responders (in this Act referred to as the “Advisory
12 Council”).

13 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall
15 be composed of not more than 13 members, selected
16 by the Interagency Committee on First Responders.

17 (2) REPRESENTATION.—The Interagency Com-
18 mittee on First Responders shall ensure that the
19 membership of the Advisory Council represents—

20 (A) the law enforcement community;

21 (B) fire and rescue organizations;

22 (C) medical and emergency relief services;

23 and

24 (D) both urban and rural communities.

1 (c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Advisory Council shall se-
2 lect annually a chairperson from among its members.

3 (d) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—The members of
4 the Advisory Council shall serve without compensation,
5 but shall be eligible for reimbursement of necessary ex-
6 penses connected with their service to the Advisory Coun-
7 cil.

8 (e) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall meet
9 with the Interagency Committee on First Responders not
10 less frequently than once every 3 months.

11 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated such funds
13 as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
14 Act.

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