Calendar No. 360

108TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION



[Report No. 108–183]

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to carry out a program for the protection of the health and safety of residents, workers, volunteers, and others in a disaster area.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2003

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SCHU-MER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

NOVEMBER 3, 2003

Reported by Mr. INHOFE, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to carry out a program for the protection of the health and safety of residents, workers, volunteers, and others in a disaster area.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
2	This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Area Health
3	and Environmental Monitoring Act of 2003".
4	SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY OF INDIVID-
5	UALS IN A DISASTER AREA.
6	Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
7	Emergency Assistance Act is amended by inserting after
8	section 408 (42 U.S.C. 5174) the following:
9	"SEC. 409. PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY OF INDI-
10	VIDUALS IN A DISASTER AREA.
11	"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
12	"(1) INDIVIDUAL.—The term "individual" in-
13	eludes —
14	"(A) a worker or volunteer who responds
15	to a disaster, including—
16	"(i) a police officer;
17	"(ii) a firefighter;
18	"(iii) an emergency medical techni-
19	cian;
20	"(iv) any participating member of an
21	urban search and rescue team; and
22	"(v) any other relief or rescue worker
23	or volunteer that the President determines
24	to be appropriate;
25	"(B) a worker who responds to a disaster
26	by assisting in the cleanup or restoration of
	•S 1279 RS

1	critical infrastructure in and around a disaster
2	arca;
3	"(C) a person whose place of residence is
4	in a disaster area;
5	"(D) a person who is employed in or at-
6	tends school, child care, or adult day care in a
7	building located in a disaster area; and
8	"(E) any other person that the President
9	determines to be appropriate.
10	"(2) Program.—The term 'program' means a
11	program described in subsection (b) that is carried
12	out for a disaster area.
13	"(3) Substance of concern.—The term
14	'substance of concern' means any chemical or sub-
15	stance associated with potential acute or chronic
16	human health effects, the risk of exposure to which
17	could potentially be increased as the result of a dis-
18	aster.
19	"(b) Program.—
20	((1) In GENERAL.—If the President determines
21	that 1 or more substances of concern are being, or
22	have been, released in an area declared to be a dis-
23	aster area under this Act, the President may carry
24	out a program for the protection, assessment, moni-

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1	toring, and study of the health and safety of individ-
2	uals to ensure that—
3	"(A) the individuals are adequately in-
4	formed about and protected against potential
5	health impacts of the substance of concern and
6	potential mental health impacts in a timely
7	manner;
8	"(B) the individuals are monitored and
9	studied over time, including through baseline
10	and follow-up clinical health examinations,
11	for-
12	"(i) any short- and long-term health
13	impacts of any substance of concern; and
14	"(ii) any mental health impacts;
15	"(C) the individuals receive health care re-
16	ferrals as needed and appropriate; and
17	"(D) information from any such moni-
18	toring and studies is used to prevent or protect
19	against similar health impacts from future dis-
20	asters.
21	<u>"(2) ACTIVITIES.—A program under paragraph</u>
22	(1) may include such activities as—
23	${(\Lambda)}$ collecting and analyzing environ-
24	mental exposure data;

1	"(B) developing and disseminating infor-
2	mation and educational materials;
3	"(C) performing baseline and follow-up
4	clinical health and mental health examinations
5	and taking biological samples;
6	"(D) establishing and maintaining an ex-
7	posure registry;
8	"(E) studying the long-term human health
9	impacts of any exposures through epidemiolog-
10	ical and other health studies; and
11	"(F) providing assistance to individuals in
12	determining eligibility for health coverage and
13	identifying appropriate health services.
14	"(3) TIMING.—To the maximum extent prac-
15	ticable, a program under paragraph (1) shall be es-
16	tablished, and activities under the program shall be
17	commenced (including baseline health examinations),
18	in a timely manner that will ensure the highest level
19	of public health protection and effective monitoring.
20	"(4) PARTICIPATION IN REGISTRIES AND STUD-
21	HES.
22	${(A)}$ In General.—Participation in any
23	registry or study that is part of a program
24	under paragraph (1) shall be voluntary.

1	"(B) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—The
2	President shall take appropriate measures to
3	protect the privacy of any participant in a reg-
4	istry or study described in subparagraph (A).
5	"(5) Cooperative agreements.—The Presi-
6	dent may carry out a program under paragraph (1)
7	through a cooperative agreement with a medical in-
8	stitution, or a consortium of medical institutions,
9	that is—
10	${(A)}$ located near the disaster area, and
11	near groups of individuals that worked or vol-
12	unteered in response to the disaster in the dis-
13	aster area, with respect to which the program
14	is carried out; and
15	"(B) experienced in the area of environ-
16	mental or occupational health, toxicology, and
17	safety, including experience in—
18	"(i) developing elinical protocols and
19	conducting clinical health examinations, in-
20	cluding mental health assessments;
21	"(ii) conducting long-term health
22	monitoring and epidemiological studies;
23	"(iii) conducting long-term mental
24	health studies; and

1	"(iv) establishing and maintaining
2	medical surveillance programs and environ-
3	mental exposure or disease registries.
4	"(6) Involvement.—
5	"(A) IN GENERAL.—In establishing and
6	maintaining a program under paragraph (1),
7	the President shall ensure the involvement of
8	interested and affected parties, as appropriate,
9	including representatives of—
10	"(i) Federal, State, and local govern-
11	ment agencies;
12	"(ii) labor organizations;
13	"(iii) local residents, businesses, and
14	schools (including parents and teachers);
15	"(iv) health care providers; and
16	"(v) other organizations and persons.
17	"(B) COMMITTEES.—Involvement under
18	subparagraph (A) may be provided through the
19	establishment of an advisory or oversight com-
20	mittee or board.
21	"(c) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the es-
22	tablishment of a program under subsection (b)(1), and
23	every 5 years thereafter, the President, or the medical in-
24	stitution or consortium of such institutions having entered
25	into a cooperative agreement under subsection (b)(5),

shall submit to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
 Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary
 of Labor, the Administrator of the Environmental Protec tion Agency, and appropriate committees of Congress a
 report on programs and studies carried out under the pro gram.".

7 SEC. 3. BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON DISASTER AREA HEALTH 8 PROTECTION AND MONITORING.

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after 10 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of 11 Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human 12 Services, and the Administrator of the Environmental 13 Protection Agency shall jointly establish a Blue Ribbon 14 Panel on Disaster Area Health Protection and Monitoring 15 (referred to in this section as the "Panel").

- 16 (b) MEMBERSHIP.
- 17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Panel shall be composed
 18 of—

19 (A) 15 voting members, to be appointed by
20 the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Sec21 retary of Health and Human Services, and the
22 Administrator of the Environmental Protection
23 Agency in accordance with paragraph (2); and
24 (B) officers or employees of the Depart25 ment of Health and Human Services, the De-

1	partment of Homeland Security, the Environ-
2	mental Protection Agency, and other Federal
3	agencies, as appropriate, to be appointed by the
4	Secretary of Health and Human Services, the
5	Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Ad-
6	ministrator of the Environmental Protection
7	Agency as nonvoting, ex officio members of the
8	Panel.
9	(2) BACKGROUND AND EXPERTISE.—The vot-
10	ing members of the Panel shall be individuals who—
11	(A) are not officers or employees of the
12	Federal Government; and
13	(B) have expertise in—
14	(i) environmental health, safety, and
15	medicine;
16	(ii) occupational health, safety, and
17	medicine;
18	(iii) elinical medicine, including pedi-
19	atrics;
20	(iv) toxicology;
21	(v) epidemiology;
22	(vi) mental health;
23	(vii) medical monitoring and surveil-
24	lance;

1	(viii) environmental monitoring and
2	surveillance;
3	(ix) environmental and industrial hy-
4	giene;
5	(x) emergency planning and prepared-
6	ness;
7	(xi) public outreach and education;
8	(xii) State and local health depart-
9	ments;
10	(xiii) State and local environmental
11	protection departments;
12	(xiv) functions of workers that re-
13	spond to disasters, including first respond-
14	ers; and
15	(xv) public health and family services.
16	(c) DUTIES.
17	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Panel shall provide ad-
18	vice and recommendations regarding protecting and
19	monitoring the health and safety of individuals po-
20	tentially exposed to any chemical or substance asso-
21	ciated with potential acute or chronic human health
22	effects as the result of a disaster, including advice
23	and recommendations regarding—
24	(A) the implementation of programs under
25	section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster

1	Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as added
2	by section 2); and
3	(B) the establishment of protocols for the
4	monitoring of and response to releases of sub-
5	stances of concern (as defined in section 409(a)
6	of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
7	Emergency Assistance Act (as added by section
8	2)) in a disaster area for the purpose of pro-
9	tecting public health and safety, including—
10	(i) those substances of concern for
11	which samples should be collected in the
12	event of a disaster, including a terrorist at-
13	tack;
14	(ii) chemical-specific methods of sam-
15	ple collection, including sampling meth-
16	odologies and locations;
17	(iii) chemical-specific methods of sam-
18	ple analysis;
19	(iv) health-based threshold levels to be
20	used and response actions to be taken in
21	the event that thresholds are exceeded for
22	individual chemicals or substances;
23	(v) procedures for providing moni-
24	toring results to—

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1	(I) appropriate Federal, State,
2	and local government agencies;
3	(II) appropriate response per-
4	sonnel; and
5	(III) the public;
6	(vi) responsibilities of Federal, State
7	and local agencies for—
8	(I) collecting and analyzing sam-
9	ples;
10	(II) reporting results; and
11	(III) taking appropriate response
12	actions; and
13	(vii) capabilities and capacity within
14	the Federal Government to conduct appro-
15	priate environmental monitoring and re-
16	sponse in the event of a disaster, including
17	a terrorist attack; and
18	(C) other issues as specified by the See-
19	retary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of
20	Health and Human Services, and the Adminis-
21	trator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
22	(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
23	date of establishment of the Panel, the Panel shall
24	submit to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
25	Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the

1	Administrator of the Environmental Protection
2	Agency a report of the findings and recommenda-
3	tions of the Panel under this section, including rec-
4	ommendations for such legislative and administrative
5	actions as the Panel considers to be appropriate.
6	(d) Powers.—
7	(1) HEARINGS.—The Panel may hold such
8	hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take
9	such testimony, and receive such evidence as the
10	Panel considers necessary to carry out this section.
11	(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.
12	(A) IN GENERAL.—The Panel may secure
13	directly from any Federal department or agency
14	such information as the Panel considers nec-
15	essary to carry out this section.
16	(B) FURNISHING OF INFORMATION.—On
17	request of the Panel, the head of the depart-
18	ment or agency shall furnish the information to
19	the Panel.
20	(3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Panel may use the
21	United States mails in the same manner and under
22	the same conditions as other departments and agen-
23	cies of the Federal Government.
24	(e) Personnel.—

1 (1) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the 2 Panel shall not receive compensation for the per-3 formance of services for the Panel, but shall be al-4 lowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of 5 subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of 6 agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, 7 United States Code, while away from their homes or 8 regular places of business in the performance of services for the Panel. 9

10 (2) VOLUNTARY AND UNCOMPENSATED SERV11 ICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31,
12 United States Code, the Secretary may accept the
13 voluntary and uncompensated services of members of
14 the Panel.

15 (3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.
16 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed
17 to the Panel without reimbursement, and such detail
18 shall be without interruption or loss of civil service
19 status or privilege.

20 (4) STAFF, INFORMATION, AND OTHER ASSIST21 ANCE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, the
22 Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the
23 Administrator of the Environmental Protection
24 Agency shall provide to the Panel such staff, infor-

1	mation, and other assistance as may be necessary to
2	carry out the duties of the Panel.
3	(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
4	are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
5	essary to carry out this section.
6	(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—This section, the
7	authority provided under this section, and the Panel shall
8	terminate on the date that is 18 months after the date
9	of enactment of this Act.
10	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
11	This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Area Health
12	and Environmental Monitoring Act of 2003".
13	SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY OF INDIVID-
14	UALS IN A DISASTER AREA.
14 15	UALS IN A DISASTER AREA. Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
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1	"(ii) a firefighter;
2	"(iii) an emergency medical techni-
3	cian;
4	"(iv) any participating member of an
5	urban search and rescue team; and
6	"(v) any other relief or rescue worker
7	or volunteer that the President determines
8	to be appropriate;
9	"(B) a worker who responds to a disaster by
10	assisting in the cleanup or restoration of critical
11	infrastructure in and around a disaster area;
12	"(C) a person whose place of residence is in
13	a disaster area;
14	"(D) a person who is employed in or at-
15	tends school, child care, or adult day care in a
16	building located in a disaster area; and
17	((E) any other person that the President
18	determines to be appropriate.
19	"(2) Program.—The term 'program' means a
20	program described in subsection (b) that is carried
21	out for a disaster area.
22	"(3) SUBSTANCE OF CONCERN.—The term 'sub-
23	stance of concern' means a chemical or other sub-
24	stance that is associated with potential acute or
25	chronic human health effects, the risk of exposure to

which could potentially be increased as the result of 1 2 a disaster, as determined by the President. 3 "(b) PROGRAM.— "(1) IN GENERAL.—If the President determines 4 5 that 1 or more substances of concern are being, or 6 have been, released in an area declared to be a dis-7 aster area under this Act, the President may carry 8 out a program for the protection, assessment, monitoring, and study of the health and safety of individ-9 10 uals to ensure that— "(A) the individuals are adequately in-11 formed about and protected against potential 12 13 health impacts of any substance of concern and 14 potential mental health impacts in a timely 15 manner; "(B) the individuals are monitored and 16 17 studied over time, including through baseline 18 and followup clinical health examinations, for-19 "(i) any short- and long-term health 20 impacts of any substance of concern; and "(ii) any mental health impacts; 21 22 "(C) the individuals receive health care re-23 ferrals as needed and appropriate; and

1	"(D) information from any such monitoring
2	and studies is used to prevent or protect against
3	similar health impacts from future disasters.
4	"(2) ACTIVITIES.—A program under paragraph
5	(1) may include such activities as—
6	"(A) collecting and analyzing environ-
7	mental exposure data;
8	"(B) developing and disseminating infor-
9	mation and educational materials;
10	"(C) performing baseline and followup clin-
11	ical health and mental health examinations and
12	taking biological samples;
13	"(D) establishing and maintaining an expo-
14	sure registry;
15	``(E) studying the short- and long-term
16	human health impacts of any exposures through
17	epidemiological and other health studies; and
18	``(F) providing assistance to individuals in
19	determining eligibility for health coverage and
20	identifying appropriate health services.
21	"(3) TIMING.—To the maximum extent prac-
22	ticable, activities under any program established
23	under paragraph (1) (including baseline health ex-
24	aminations) shall be commenced in a timely manner

1	that will ensure the highest level of public health pro-
2	tection and effective monitoring.
3	"(4) PARTICIPATION IN REGISTRIES AND STUD-
4	IES.—
5	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Participation in any
6	registry or study that is part of a program
7	under paragraph (1) shall be voluntary.
8	"(B) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—The Presi-
9	dent shall take appropriate measures to protect
10	the privacy of any participant in a registry or
11	study described in subparagraph (A).
12	"(5) Cooperative agreements.—
13	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may
14	carry out a program under paragraph (1)
15	through a cooperative agreement with a medical
16	institution or a consortium of medical institu-
17	tions.
18	"(B) Selection criteria.—To the max-
19	imum extent practicable, the President shall se-
20	lect to carry out a program under paragraph (1)
21	a medical institution or a consortium of medical
22	institutions that—
23	"(i) is located near—

1	((I) the disaster area with respect
2	to which the program is carried out;
3	and
4	"(II) any other area in which
5	there reside groups of individuals that
6	worked or volunteered in response to
7	the disaster; and
8	"(ii) has appropriate experience in the
9	areas of environmental or occupational
10	health, toxicology, and safety, including ex-
11	perience in—
12	((I) developing clinical protocols
13	and conducting clinical health exami-
14	nations, including mental health as-
15	sessments;
16	$((II) \ conducting \ long-term \ health$
17	monitoring and epidemiological stud-
18	ies;
19	"(III) conducting long-term men-
20	tal health studies; and
21	"(IV) establishing and maintain-
22	ing medical surveillance programs and
23	environmental exposure or disease reg-
24	istries.
25	"(6) Involvement.—

1	"(A) IN GENERAL.—In establishing and
2	maintaining a program under paragraph (1),
3	the President shall involve interested and affected
4	parties, as appropriate, including representatives
5	of—
6	"(i) Federal, State, and local govern-
7	ment agencies;
8	"(ii) groups of individuals that worked
9	or volunteered in response to the disaster in
10	the disaster area;
11	"(iii) local residents, businesses, and
12	schools (including parents and teachers);
13	"(iv) health care providers; and
14	"(v) other organizations and persons.
15	"(B) Committees.—Involvement under
16	subparagraph (A) may be provided through the
17	establishment of an advisory or oversight com-
18	mittee or board.
19	"(c) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the estab-
20	lishment of a program under subsection (b)(1), and every
21	5 years thereafter, the President, or the medical institution
22	or consortium of such institutions having entered into a co-
23	operative agreement under subsection (b)(5), shall submit
24	to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of
25	Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, the

Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
 and appropriate committees of Congress a report on pro grams and studies carried out under the program.".

4 SEC. 3. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPORT ON DIS5 ASTER AREA HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL 6 PROTECTION AND MONITORING.

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu8 rity, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the
9 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
10 shall jointly enter into a contract with the National Acad11 emy of Sciences to conduct a study and prepare a report
12 on disaster area health and environmental protection and
13 monitoring.

(b) EXPERTISE.—The report under subsection (a) shall
be prepared with the participation of individuals who have
expertise in—

- 17 (1) environmental health, safety, and medicine;
- 18 (2) occupational health, safety, and medicine;
- 19 *(3) clinical medicine, including pediatrics;*
- $20 \qquad (4) toxicology;$
- 21 (5) epidemiology;
- 22 (6) mental health;
- 23 (7) medical monitoring and surveillance;
- 24 (8) environmental monitoring and surveillance;
- 25 (9) environmental and industrial hygiene;

1	(10) emergency planning and preparedness;
2	(11) public outreach and education;
3	(12) State and local health departments;
4	(13) State and local environmental protection
5	departments;
6	(14) functions of workers that respond to disas-
7	ters, including first responders; and
8	(15) public health and family services.
9	(c) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall
10	provide advice and recommendations regarding protecting
11	and monitoring the health and safety of individuals poten-
12	tially exposed to any chemical or other substance associated
13	with potential acute or chronic human health effects as the
14	result of a disaster, including advice and recommendations
15	regarding—
16	(1) the establishment of protocols for the moni-
17	toring of and response to chemical or substance re-
18	leases in a disaster area for the purpose of protecting
19	public health and safety, including—
20	(A) chemicals or other substances for which
21	samples should be collected in the event of a dis-
22	aster, including a terrorist attack;
23	(B) chemical- or substance-specific methods
24	of communication including communication
	of sample collection, including sampling meth-

1	(C) chemical- or substance-specific methods
2	of sample analysis;
3	(D) health-based threshold levels to be used
4	and response actions to be taken in the event
5	that thresholds are exceeded for individual
6	chemicals or other substances;
7	(E) procedures for providing monitoring re-
8	sults to—
9	(i) appropriate Federal, State, and
10	local government agencies;
11	(ii) appropriate response personnel;
12	and
13	(iii) the public;
14	(F) responsibilities of Federal, State and
15	local agencies for—
16	(i) collecting and analyzing samples;
17	(ii) reporting results; and
18	(iii) taking appropriate response ac-
19	tions; and
20	(G) capabilities and capacity within the
21	Federal Government to conduct appropriate en-
22	vironmental monitoring and response in the
23	event of a disaster, including a terrorist attack;
24	and

(2) other issues as specified by the Secretary of
 Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and
 Human Services, and the Administrator of the Envi ronmental Protection Agency.
 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are
 authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary
 to carry out this section.

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To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to carry out a program for the protection of the health and safety of residents, workers, volunteers, and others in a disaster area.

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