

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1630

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish the National
Emergency Family Locator System.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

Mr. OBAMA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish
the National Emergency Family Locator System.

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 “National Emergency
5 Family Locator Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
9 means the Department of Homeland Security.

1 (2) EMERGENCY.—The term “emergency” has
2 the meaning given the term in section 102 of the
3 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
4 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

5 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

7 (4) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the
8 National Emergency Family Locator System estab-
9 lished under section 3(a).

10 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL EMERGENCY FAMILY LOCATOR SYSTEM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish
13 within the Department the National Family Locator Sys-
14 tem.

15 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the System are—

16 (1) to enable individuals displaced by an emer-
17 gency to provide to the Department the name and
18 location of the displaced individuals and any other
19 relevant information using the telephone, the Inter-
20 net, and other means determined to be appropriate
21 by the Secretary; and

22 (2) to enable the Department—

23 (A) to compile the information collected
24 under paragraph (1); and

1 (B) to provide the information collected
2 and compiled under the System to the family
3 members of the displaced individuals and law
4 enforcement officials.

5 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the System
6 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into account
7 and, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate into
8 the System—

9 (1) intermediary-based locator systems such as
10 the National Next of Kin Registry; and

11 (2) information from existing family locator
12 databases, such as the Family News Network of the
13 International Committee of the Red Cross.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
16 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

○