

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3780

To require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to develop a storm surge scale to be used in conjunction with the Saffir-Simpson scale to measure and predict the impact of storm surges caused by hurricanes and tropical storms and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2006

Mr. VITTER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to develop a storm surge scale to be used in conjunction with the Saffir-Simpson scale to measure and predict the impact of storm surges caused by hurricanes and tropical storms 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 “Predict Accurate
5 Storm Surge Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT OF STORM SURGE SCALE.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENT TO DEVELOP STORM SURGE
3 SCALE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 1,
5 2007, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmos-
6 phere of the Department of Commerce shall develop
7 a storm surge scale to be used in conjunction with
8 the Saffir-Simpson scale to measure and predict the
9 impact of storm surges caused by storm events, in-
10 cluding hurricanes and tropical storms.

11 (2) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—The
12 Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere shall
13 develop the storm surge scale described in paragraph
14 (1) in cooperation with the Chief of Engineers of the
15 Army Corps of Engineers, the Director of United
16 States Geological Survey, the Under Secretary for
17 Emergency Preparedness and Response of the De-
18 partment of Homeland Security, and in consultation
19 with appropriate national, regional, and state engi-
20 neering, flood plain, and emergency managers orga-
21 nizations.

22 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The storm surge scale devel-
23 oped pursuant to subsection (a) shall take into account
24 factors related to the storm that will produce the storm
25 surge, including wind speed and rainfall amounts and the
26 characteristics of the area where the storm will make land-

1 fall, including the slope of the continental shelf and shape
2 of the coastline of such area and whether such area is
3 urban or rural area.

4 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—The storm surge scale devel-
5 oped pursuant to subsection (a) shall be—

6 (1) developed to assist in the accurate modeling
7 and prediction of the effect of a storm surge upon
8 landfall and to assist officials in planning for the
9 storm surge;

10 (2) used to measure the storm surge associated
11 with storm events, including hurricanes and tropical
12 storms; and

13 (3) incorporated into the engineering and de-
14 sign of appropriate coastal, flood, and hurricane pro-
15 tection projects carried out by the United States.

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