

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2743

To provide for the continuance of volunteer communications capability within the United States and its territories.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2007

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To provide for the continuance of volunteer communications capability within the United States and its territories.

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 “Military Affiliate Radio  
5 System Emergency Communication Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF THE MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO**  
2 **SYSTEM (MARS) AND SHARED RESOURCES**  
3 **HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO PROGRAM**  
4 **(SHARES) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**  
5 **SYSTEMS.**

6 (a) AMENDMENT.—The first title XVIII of the  
7 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 671  
8 of Public Law 109–295; 6 U.S.C. 571 et seq.), relating  
9 to emergency communications, is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating section 1808 as section  
11 1809; and

12 (2) by inserting after section 1807 the following  
13 new section:

14 **“SEC. 1808. PROTECTION OF THE MILITARY AFFILIATE**  
15 **RADIO SYSTEM (MARS) AND SHARED RE-**  
16 **SOURCES HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO PRO-**  
17 **GRAM (SHARES) EMERGENCY COMMUNICA-**  
18 **TIONS SYSTEMS.**

19 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to rec-  
20 ognize the valuable contribution that the Military Affiliate  
21 Radio System (in this section referred to as ‘MARS’)  
22 makes in providing a worldwide backup emergency com-  
23 munication system, either on their assigned channels or  
24 on the National Communication System Shared Resources  
25 High Frequency Radio Program (in this section referred

1 to as ‘SHARES’), by protecting these existing volunteer  
2 high frequency networks.

3 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary—

4 “(1) shall require that high frequency (short-  
5 wave) transmitters, receivers, and related data and  
6 interface equipment that meet standards of service  
7 established for the Amateur Radio Service under  
8 part 97 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, by  
9 the Federal Communications Commission (in this  
10 section referred to as the ‘Commission’) in the fre-  
11 quency range of 2–30 megahertz are also approved  
12 for routine training functions and emergency com-  
13 munication service on any Federal Government  
14 MARS or SHARES channel within that frequency  
15 range;

16 “(2) shall not require the discontinuance of the  
17 use of any communications equipment that has been  
18 approved by the Commission for operation within  
19 the Amateur Radio Service from operating in the  
20 radio service bands assigned to MARS or SHARES;

21 “(3) may add new transmitters and receivers to  
22 the MARS and SHARES networks so long as the  
23 equipment—

24 “(A) meets Commission standards for op-  
25 eration in the Amateur Radio Service; and

1                   “(B) is equipped with frequency stabiliza-  
2                   tion modules;

3                   “(4) shall not add any additional technical re-  
4                   quirements for MARS stations, and shall not permit  
5                   any agency or instrumentality of the Department of  
6                   Homeland Security to add any additional technical  
7                   requirements for MARS stations; and

8                   “(5) shall encourage and utilize MARS per-  
9                   sonnel, facilities, capabilities, and radio equipment to  
10                  connect to the Internet in their emergency commu-  
11                  nication planning.”.

12                  (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
13                  tents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of  
14                  2002 is amended by striking out the item pertaining to  
15                  section 1808 and inserting the following:

                  “Sec. 1808. Protection of the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and  
                                Shared Resources High Frequency Radio Program (SHARES)  
                                Emergency Communications Systems.

                  “Sec. 1809. Definition.”.

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