

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1829

To reauthorize programs under the Missing Children's Assistance Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 19, 2007

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. SHELBY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To reauthorize programs under the Missing Children's Assistance Act.

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 "Protect our Children
5 First Act of 2007".

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO FINDINGS.**

7 Section 402 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 5771) is amended to read as follows:

9 **"SEC. 402. FINDINGS.**

10 "Congress finds that—

1 “(1) each year thousands of children are ab-
2 ducted or removed from the control of a parent hav-
3 ing legal custody without such parent’s consent,
4 under circumstances which immediately place the
5 child in grave danger;

6 “(2) many missing children are at great risk of
7 both physical harm and sexual exploitation;

8 “(3) in many cases, parents and local law en-
9 forcement officials have neither the resources nor
10 the expertise to mount expanded search efforts;

11 “(4) abducted children are frequently moved
12 from one locality to another, requiring the coopera-
13 tion and coordination of local, State, and Federal
14 law enforcement efforts;

15 “(5) growing numbers of children are the vic-
16 tims of child sexual exploitation, increasingly involv-
17 ing the use of new technology to access the Internet;

18 “(6) children may be displaced from their par-
19 ents or legal guardians as a result of national disas-
20 ters such as hurricanes and floods;

21 “(7) sex offenders pose a threat to children;
22 and

23 “(8) the National Center for Missing and Ex-
24 ploited Children—

1 “(A) serves as the national resource center
2 and clearinghouse;

3 “(B) works in partnership with the De-
4 partment of Justice, the Federal Bureau of In-
5 vestigation, the United States Marshals Service,
6 the Department of the Treasury, the Depart-
7 ment of State, the Department of Homeland
8 Security’s Bureau of Immigration and Customs
9 Enforcement, the United States Secret Service,
10 and many other agencies in the effort to find
11 missing children and prevent child victimiza-
12 tion; and

13 “(C) operates a national and increasingly
14 worldwide network, linking the Center online
15 with each of the missing children clearinghouses
16 operated by the 50 States, the District of Co-
17 lumbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as with Scot-
18 land Yard in the United Kingdom, the Royal
19 Canadian Mounted Police, INTERPOL head-
20 quarters in Lyon, France, and others, which en-
21 able the Center to transmit images and infor-
22 mation regarding missing and exploited children
23 to law enforcement across the United States
24 and around the world instantly.”.

1 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE**
2 **ADMINISTRATOR.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404(b) of the Missing
4 Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) striking paragraph (3); and

7 (2) redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph
8 (3).

9 (b) ANNUAL GRANT TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
10 MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.—Section 404(b)(1)
11 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
12 5773(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
14 annually make a grant to the Center, which shall be
15 used to—

16 “(A)(i) operate a national 24-hour toll-free
17 telephone line by which individuals may report
18 information regarding the location of any miss-
19 ing child, and request information pertaining to
20 procedures necessary to reunite such child with
21 such child’s legal custodian; and

22 “(ii) coordinate the operation of such tele-
23 phone line with the operation of the national
24 communications system referred to in part C of
25 the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42
26 U.S.C. 5714–11);

1 “(B) operate the official national resource
2 center and information clearinghouse for miss-
3 ing and exploited children;

4 “(C) provide to State and local govern-
5 ments, public and private nonprofit agencies,
6 and individuals, information regarding—

7 “(i) free or low-cost legal, restaurant,
8 lodging, and transportation services that
9 are available for the benefit of missing and
10 exploited children and their families; and

11 “(ii) the existence and nature of pro-
12 grams being carried out by Federal agen-
13 cies to assist missing and exploited chil-
14 dren and their families;

15 “(D) coordinate public and private pro-
16 grams that locate, recover, or reunite missing
17 children with their families;

18 “(E) disseminate, on a national basis, in-
19 formation relating to innovative and model pro-
20 grams, services, and legislation that benefit
21 missing and exploited children;

22 “(F) in cooperation with the Department
23 of Justice and the Department of State and
24 local law enforcement, develop and present an
25 annual report on the actual number of children

1 nationwide who are reported missing each year,
2 the number of children who are victims of non-
3 family abductions, the number of children who
4 are the victims of parental kidnappings, and the
5 number of children who are recovered each
6 year;

7 “(G) provide technical assistance and
8 training to law enforcement agencies, State and
9 local governments, elements of the criminal jus-
10 tice system, public and private nonprofit agen-
11 cies, and individuals in the prevention, inves-
12 tigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases in-
13 volving missing and exploited children;

14 “(H) provide assistance to families and law
15 enforcement agencies in locating and recovering
16 missing and exploited children, both nationally
17 and internationally;

18 “(I) provide analytical support and tech-
19 nical assistance to law enforcement agencies
20 through searching public records databases in
21 locating and recovering missing and exploited
22 children and helping to locate and identify ab-
23 ductors;

1 “(J) provide direct on-site technical assist-
2 ance and consultation to law enforcement agen-
3 cies in child abduction and exploitation cases;

4 “(K) provide forensic technical assistance
5 and consultation to law enforcement and other
6 agencies in the identification of unidentified de-
7 ceased children through facial reconstruction of
8 skeletal remains and similar techniques;

9 “(L) track the incidence of attempted child
10 abductions in order to identify links and pat-
11 terns, and provide such information to law en-
12 forcement agencies;

13 “(M) facilitate the deployment of the Na-
14 tional Emergency Child Locator Center to as-
15 sist in reuniting missing children with their
16 families during periods of national disasters;

17 “(N) operate a cyber tipline to provide on-
18 line users and electronic service providers an ef-
19 fective means of reporting Internet-related child
20 sexual exploitation in the areas of—

21 “(i) possession, manufacture and dis-
22 tribution of child pornography;

23 “(ii) online enticement of children for
24 sexual acts;

25 “(iii) child prostitution;

1 “(iv) sex tourism involving children;

2 “(v) extrafamilial child sexual moles-
3 tation; and

4 “(vi) unsolicited obscene material sent
5 to a child;

6 and subsequently to transmit such reports, in-
7 cluding relevant images and information, to the
8 appropriate international, Federal, State or
9 local law enforcement agency for investigation;

10 “(O) work with law enforcement, electronic
11 service providers, electronic payment service
12 providers, and others on methods to reduce the
13 distribution on the Internet of images and vid-
14 eos of sexually exploited children;

15 “(P) operate the Child Victim Identifica-
16 tion Program in order to assist the efforts of
17 law enforcement agencies in identifying victims
18 of child pornography and other sexual crimes;

19 “(Q) develop and disseminate programs
20 and information for the general public to edu-
21 cate families and children regarding the preven-
22 tion of child abduction and sexual exploitation;
23 and

24 “(R) develop and disseminate programs
25 and information to local communities, schools,

1 public officials, nonprofit organizations, and
2 youth-serving organizations to help parents and
3 children use the Internet safely.”.

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

5 (a) ANNUAL GRANT TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
6 MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.—Section 404(b)(2)
7 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
8 5773(b)(2)) is amended by striking “\$20,000,000 for each
9 of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008” and inserting
10 “\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as are
11 necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013”.

12 (b) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(a) of the Missing
13 Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5777(a)) is amended
14 by striking “2004 through 2008” and inserting “2008
15 through 2013.”.

16 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.**

17 Title XXXVII of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42
18 U.S.C. 5779 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following:

20 **“SEC. 3703. AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An Inspector General appointed
22 under section 3 or 8G of the Inspector General Act of
23 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) may authorize staff to assist the
24 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children—

1 “(1) by conducting reviews of inactive case files
2 to develop recommendations for further investiga-
3 tions; and

4 “(2) by engaging in similar activities.

5 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

6 “(1) PRIORITY.—An Inspector General may not
7 permit staff to engage in activities described in sub-
8 section (a) if such activities will interfere with the
9 duties of the Inspector General under the Inspector
10 General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

11 “(2) FUNDING.—No additional funds are au-
12 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
13 tion.”.

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