

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1955

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to first responder agencies that have employees in the National Guard or Reserves on active duty.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2007

Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to first responder agencies that have employees in the National Guard or Reserves on active duty.

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 “Reinforce First Re-
5 sponders and Emergency Employees Deployed Overseas in
6 the Military Act of 2007” or the “Reinforce FREEDOM
7 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that first re-
 3 sponder agencies are not left ill-prepared to respond to
 4 emergencies and disasters due to the activation of the em-
 5 ployees of such agencies who are members of the National
 6 Guard or Reserves.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act—

9 (1) the term “first responder agency” means—

10 (A) a law enforcement or fire agency of a
 11 State or local government; or

12 (B) a publically or privately operated am-
 13 bulance service;

14 (2) the terms “local government” and “State”
 15 have the meanings given those terms in section 2 of
 16 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101);

17 (3) the term “reserve component” means a re-
 18 serve component of the Armed Forces described in
 19 section 10101 of title 10, United States Code; and

20 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
 21 of Homeland Security.

22 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a grant
 24 to a first responder agency an employee of which (or, in
 25 the case of a first responder agency that has a primarily

1 volunteer workforce, a significant portion (as determined
2 by the Secretary) of the staff of which) is—

3 (1) a member of a reserve component; and

4 (2) on active duty or has received orders to
5 begin active duty.

6 (b) APPLICATION.—A first responder agency desiring
7 a grant under this section shall submit an application at
8 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such in-
9 formation as the Secretary shall by regulation establish
10 to ensure that the first responder agency meets the re-
11 quirements for a grant under this section.

12 (c) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
14 appropriations, the Secretary shall award a grant di-
15 rectly to a first responder agency that submits an
16 application satisfying the requirements established
17 under subsection (b).

18 (2) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under
19 this section, the Secretary shall give preference to
20 any first responder agency for which a high percent-
21 age (as determined by the Secretary) of the work-
22 force of that first responder agency is composed of
23 employees or volunteers described in subsection (a).

24 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant under this section may
25 be used—

1 (1) for the salary of an individual hired to re-
2 place an employee or volunteer described in sub-
3 section (a), including as reimbursement for such sal-
4 ary paid before the date the grant was awarded
5 under this section;

6 (2) for overtime expenses for an employee per-
7 forming tasks that would have been performed by an
8 employee or volunteer described in subsection (a);
9 and

10 (3) for the cost of equipment, maintenance, or
11 other activities—

12 (A) that a first responder agency was un-
13 able to acquire or perform because of the costs
14 of replacing an employee or volunteer described
15 in subsection (a); or

16 (B) the need for which was caused by the
17 deployment of such an employee or volunteer.

18 (e) AMOUNT.—A grant under this section to a first
19 responder agency shall be—

20 (1) in the case of such an agency that employs
21 an employee described in subsection (a), \$15,000 for
22 each 3-month period that each full-time employee of
23 that first responder agency is on active duty, deter-
24 mined on a full-time equivalency basis; and

1 (2) in the case of a first responder agency that
2 has a primarily volunteer workforce, for each 3-
3 month period that a significant portion, as deter-
4 mined by the Secretary, of the workforce of that
5 first responder agency is on active duty, not more
6 than \$15,000.

7 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 are authorized to be appropriated \$150,000,000 for each
9 of fiscal years 2008 through 2010 to carry out this sec-
10 tion.

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