

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 23

To reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and  
for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HULTGREN, and Ms. ESTY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction  
Program, 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 “National Windstorm  
5 Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 (a) DIRECTOR.—Section 203(1) of the National  
3 Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C.  
4 15702(1)) is amended by striking “Director of the Office  
5 of Science and Technology Policy” and inserting “Director  
6 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology”.

7 (b) LIFELINES.—Section 203 of the National Wind-  
8 storm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702)  
9 is further amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through  
11 (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
13 lowing new paragraph:

14 “(2) LIFELINES.—The term ‘lifelines’ means  
15 public works and utilities, including transportation  
16 facilities and infrastructure, oil and gas pipelines,  
17 electrical power and communication facilities and in-  
18 frastructure, and water supply and sewage treat-  
19 ment facilities.”.

20 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PRO-**  
21 **GRAM.**

22 Section 204 of the National Windstorm Impact Re-  
23 duction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703) is amended—

24 (1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and  
25 inserting the following:

1       “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Na-  
2 tional Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, the purpose  
3 of which is to achieve major measurable reductions in the  
4 losses of life and property from windstorms through a co-  
5 ordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels  
6 of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed  
7 at improving the understanding of windstorms and their  
8 impacts and developing and encouraging the implementa-  
9 tion of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce those  
10 impacts.

11       “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.—

12               “(1) LEAD AGENCY.—The National Institute of  
13 Standards and Technology shall have the primary  
14 responsibility for planning and coordinating the Pro-  
15 gram. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director  
16 shall—

17                       “(A) ensure that the Program includes the  
18 necessary components to promote the imple-  
19 mentation of windstorm risk reduction meas-  
20 ures by Federal, State, and local governments,  
21 national standards and model building code or-  
22 ganizations, architects and engineers, and oth-  
23 ers with a role in planning and constructing  
24 buildings and lifelines;

1           “(B) support the development of perform-  
2           ance-based engineering tools, and work with ap-  
3           propriate groups to promote the commercial ap-  
4           plication of such tools, including through wind-  
5           related model building codes, voluntary stand-  
6           ards, and construction best practices;

7           “(C) request the assistance of Federal  
8           agencies other than the Program agencies, as  
9           necessary to assist in carrying out this Act;

10           “(D) coordinate all Federal post-windstorm  
11           investigations; and

12           “(E) when warranted by research or inves-  
13           tigative findings, issue recommendations to as-  
14           sist in informing the development of model  
15           codes, and provide information to Congress on  
16           the use of such recommendations.

17           “(2) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND  
18           TECHNOLOGY.—In addition to the lead agency re-  
19           sponsibilities described under paragraph (1), the Na-  
20           tional Institute of Standards and Technology shall  
21           be responsible for carrying out research and develop-  
22           ment to improve model building codes, voluntary  
23           standards, and best practices for the design, con-  
24           struction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and  
25           lifelines.

1           “(3) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The  
2 National Science Foundation shall support research  
3 in—

4           “(A) engineering and the atmospheric  
5 sciences to improve the understanding of the  
6 behavior of windstorms and their impact on  
7 buildings, structures, and lifelines; and

8           “(B) economic and social factors influ-  
9 encing windstorm risk reduction measures.

10          “(4) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC  
11 ADMINISTRATION.—The National Oceanic and At-  
12 mospheric Administration shall support atmospheric  
13 sciences research to improve the understanding of  
14 the behavior of windstorms and their impact on  
15 buildings, structures, and lifelines.

16          “(5) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
17 AGENCY.—The Federal Emergency Management  
18 Agency shall—

19           “(A) support—

20           “(i) the development of risk assess-  
21 ment tools and effective mitigation tech-  
22 niques;

23           “(ii) windstorm-related data collection  
24 and analysis;

1 “(iii) public outreach and information  
2 dissemination; and

3 “(iv) promotion of the adoption of  
4 windstorm preparedness and mitigation  
5 measures, including for households, busi-  
6 nesses, and communities, consistent with  
7 the Agency’s all-hazards approach; and

8 “(B) work closely with national standards  
9 and model building code organizations, in con-  
10 junction with the National Institute of Stand-  
11 ards and Technology, to promote the implemen-  
12 tation of research results and promote better  
13 building practices within the building design  
14 and construction industry, including architects,  
15 engineers, contractors, builders, and inspec-  
16 tors.”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
18 section (e), and by striking subsections (e) and (f);  
19 and

20 (3) by inserting after subsection (c), as so re-  
21 designated, the following new subsections:

22 “(d) BUDGET ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the Na-  
23 tional Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director  
24 of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the  
25 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and

1 the Director of the Federal Emergency Management  
2 Agency shall each include in their agency’s annual budget  
3 request to Congress a description of their agency’s pro-  
4 jected activities under the Program for the fiscal year cov-  
5 ered by the budget request, along with an assessment of  
6 what they plan to spend on those activities for that fiscal  
7 year.

8 “(e) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON  
9 WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an  
11 Interagency Coordinating Committee on Windstorm  
12 Impact Reduction, chaired by the Director.

13 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—In addition to the chair,  
14 the Committee shall be composed of—

15 “(A) the heads of—

16 “(i) the Federal Emergency Manage-  
17 ment Agency;

18 “(ii) the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
19 pheric Administration;

20 “(iii) the National Science Founda-  
21 tion;

22 “(iv) the Office of Science and Tech-  
23 nology Policy; and

24 “(v) the Office of Management and  
25 Budget; and

1           “(B) the head of any other Federal agency  
2           the chair considers appropriate.

3           “(3) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet  
4           not less than 2 times a year at the call of the Direc-  
5           tor of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-  
6           nology.

7           “(4) GENERAL PURPOSE AND DUTIES.—The  
8           Committee shall oversee the planning and coordina-  
9           tion of the Program.

10          “(5) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Committee shall  
11          develop and submit to Congress, not later than one  
12          year after the date of enactment of the National  
13          Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of  
14          2015, a Strategic Plan for the Program that in-  
15          cludes—

16                 “(A) prioritized goals for the Program that  
17                 will mitigate against the loss of life and prop-  
18                 erty from future windstorms;

19                 “(B) short-term, mid-term, and long-term  
20                 research objectives to achieve those goals;

21                 “(C) a description of the role of each Pro-  
22                 gram agency in achieving the prioritized goals;

23                 “(D) the methods by which progress to-  
24                 wards the goals will be assessed; and



1           “(E) an explanation of how the Program  
2 will foster the transfer of research results into  
3 outcomes, such as improved model building  
4 codes.

5           “(6) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 18  
6 months after the date of enactment of the National  
7 Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of  
8 2015, the Committee shall submit to the Congress a  
9 report on the progress of the Program that in-  
10 cludes—

11           “(A) a description of the activities funded  
12 under the Program, a description of how these  
13 activities align with the prioritized goals and re-  
14 search objectives established in the Strategic  
15 Plan, and the budgets, per agency, for these ac-  
16 tivities;

17           “(B) the outcomes achieved by the Pro-  
18 gram for each of the goals identified in the  
19 Strategic Plan;

20           “(C) a description of any recommendations  
21 made to change existing building codes that  
22 were the result of Program activities; and

23           “(D) a description of the extent to which  
24 the Program has incorporated recommendations

1 from the Advisory Committee on Windstorm  
2 Impact Reduction.

3 “(7) COORDINATED BUDGET.—The Committee  
4 shall develop a coordinated budget for the Program,  
5 which shall be submitted to the Congress at the time  
6 of the President’s budget submission for each fiscal  
7 year.”.

8 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM**  
9 **IMPACT REDUCTION.**

10 Section 205 of the National Windstorm Impact Re-  
11 duction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15704) is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 205. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WIND-**  
14 **STORM IMPACT REDUCTION.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-  
16 stitute of Standards and Technology shall establish an Ad-  
17 visory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, which  
18 shall be composed of at least 7 members, none of whom  
19 may be employees of the Federal Government, including  
20 representatives of research and academic institutions, in-  
21 dustry standards development organizations, emergency  
22 management agencies, State and local government, and  
23 business communities who are qualified to provide advice  
24 on windstorm impact reduction and represent all related  
25 scientific, architectural, and engineering disciplines. The

1 recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be con-  
2 sidered by Federal agencies in implementing the Program.

3 “(b) ASSESSMENTS.—The Advisory Committee on  
4 Windstorm Impact Reduction shall offer assessments on—

5 “(1) trends and developments in the natural,  
6 engineering, and social sciences and practices of  
7 windstorm impact mitigation;

8 “(2) the priorities of the Program’s Strategic  
9 Plan;

10 “(3) the coordination of the Program; and

11 “(4) any revisions to the Program which may  
12 be necessary.

13 “(c) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Advisory  
14 Committee established under this section shall serve with-  
15 out compensation.

16 “(d) REPORTS.—At least every 2 years, the Advisory  
17 Committee shall report to the Director on the assessments  
18 carried out under subsection (b) and its recommendations  
19 for ways to improve the Program.

20 “(e) CHARTER.—Notwithstanding section 14(b)(2) of  
21 the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the  
22 Advisory Committee shall not be required to file a charter  
23 subsequent to its initial charter, filed under section 9(c)  
24 of such Act, before the termination date specified in sub-  
25 section (f) of this section.

1 “(f) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee shall  
2 terminate on September 30, 2017.

3 “(g) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—An Advisory Com-  
4 mittee member shall recuse himself from any Advisory  
5 Committee activity in which he has an actual pecuniary  
6 interest.”.

7 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 Section 207 of the National Windstorm Impact Re-  
9 duction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15706) is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 **“SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 “(a) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGEN-  
13 CY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fed-  
14 eral Emergency Management Agency for carrying out this  
15 title—

16 “(1) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2015;

17 “(2) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

18 “(3) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2017.

19 “(b) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—There are  
20 authorized to be appropriated to the National Science  
21 Foundation for carrying out this title—

22 “(1) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2015;

23 “(2) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

24 “(3) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2017.

1       “(c) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND  
2 TECHNOLOGY.—There are authorized to be appropriated  
3 to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for  
4 carrying out this title—

5               “(1) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2015;

6               “(2) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

7               “(3) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2017.

8       “(d) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN-  
9 ISTRATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to  
10 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for  
11 carrying out this title—

12               “(1) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2015;

13               “(2) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

14               “(3) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2017.”.

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