

WEATHER ALERT RESPONSE AND NOTIFICATION ACT

DECEMBER 5, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2892]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2892) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of local alerting systems, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendments are as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Weather Alert Response and Notification Act” or the “WARN Act”.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ALERTING SYSTEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of local, State, and Federal emergency alerting systems in disseminating timely and relevant information during weather-related emergencies to help communities develop better policies and procedures for emergency response and enhance public safety in the event of a weather-related emergency.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) evaluate the efficacy of various alert mediums, including platforms such as social media, to disseminate emergency alerts, including travel bans and mass power outages, during extreme weather events;

(2) assess the extent that guidance and training exists for developing alert content, such as ensuring alerts are clear, relevant, and provide the public with actionable information; and

(3) determine whether improvements could be made to public alerting based on input from a selected sample of emergency managers, local officials, and community groups.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

Amend the title so as to read:

A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of emergency alerting systems, and for other purposes.

PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 2892, as amended, is to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of local alerting systems, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 2892, as amended, directs the Comptroller General of the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study on the effectiveness of local, state, and Federal emergency alerting systems in disseminating timely and relevant information during weather-related emergencies. H.R. 2892, specifically directs GAO to evaluate the efficacy of existing alert systems, examine current training and guidance, and conduct outreach to emergency managers, local officials, and community groups.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of rule XIII, clause 3(c)(6)(A) of the 118th Congress, the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 2892, as amended:

On September 19, 2023, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a hearing entitled, “*FEMA: The Current State of Disaster Readiness, Response, and Recovery.*”¹ The Subcommittee received testimony from the Honorable Deanne Criswell, Administrator, FEMA.

¹FEMA: *The Current State of Disaster Readiness, Response, and Recovery: Hearing Before the H. Comm. On Transp. And Infrastructure*, 118th Cong. (Sept. 19, 2023).

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND CONSIDERATION

H.R. 2892 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives on April 26, 2023, by Mr. Langworthy of New York and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Within the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, H.R. 2892 was referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2892 on September 18, 2024.

The Committee considered H.R. 2892 on September 18, 2024, and ordered the measure to be reported to the House with a favorable recommendation, with amendment, by voice vote.

The following amendments were offered: An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 2892 offered by Mr. Graves of Missouri, was AGREED TO by voice vote.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for and against on each record vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against.

No record votes were requested during consideration of H.R. 2892, as amended.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2892, as amended, from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the Congressional Budget Office, to the extent practicable, to prepare estimates of the budgetary effects of legislation ordered reported by Congressional authorizing committees. In order to provide the Congress with as much information as possible, the attached table summarizes information about the estimated direct spending and revenue effects of some of the legislation that has been ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure during the 118th Congress. The legislation listed in this table generally would

have small effects, if any, on direct spending or revenues, CBO estimates. Where possible, the table also provides information about the legislation's estimated effects on spending subject to appropriation and on intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget function	Direct spending, 2025–2034	Revenues, 2025–2034	Spending subject to appropriation, 2025–2029	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Budgetary effects after 2034	Mandates	Contact
H.R. 1586	Forest Protection and Wildland Fire-fighter Safety Act of 2023. H.R. 1586 would authorize federal, state, local, and tribal firefighting agencies to use approved fire retardants to prevent and suppress wildfires without first obtaining a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The bill also would prohibit state courts from issuing injunctions against state or tribal entities' dispersal of aerial fire retardants as part of wildfire suppression or control. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1586 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) that would not exceed the annual threshold established in UMRA (\$100 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.	Ordered reported ..	11/15/23	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	Yes	Lilia Ledezma
H.R. 1720	Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Aurora Swanson
H.R. 2892	WARN Act	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	800	0	0	Between zero and \$500,000	No	No	No	Matthew Pickford
H.R. 3149	A bill to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway," and for other purposes. H.R. 3149 would designate U.S. Route 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3149 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2029 period. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	400	0	0	Between zero and \$500,000	No	No	No	Kelly Durand
H.R. 3988	ARTICLE ONE Act	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	800	Between —\$500,000 and zero	0	Not estimated	Yes	No	No	Kelly Durand

H.R. 3988 would amend the National Emergencies Act to limit to 30 days the duration of any national emergency declared by the President unless the Congress subsequently approves or extends the declaration. The bill also would require the President to report to the Congress periodically on the need for and status of declared emergencies. CBO cannot predict the number or timing of future declarations but expects that most would be approved by the Congress. Under H.R. 3988 emergency declarations could have a shorter duration than under current law. If that happens direct spending related to such emergencies would decline. CBO estimates any reduction in direct spending would be insignificant. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not affect revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget function	Direct spending, 2025–2034	Revenues, 2025–2034	Spending subject to appropriation, 2025–2029	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Budgetary effects after 2034	Mandates	Contact
H.R. 4043	H.R. 4043, a bill to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to expand eligibility for certain wastewater infrastructure grants, and for other purposes. H.R. 4043 would expand eligibility for certain wastewater infrastructure grants administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4043 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Aurora Swanson
H.R. 6241	FULL ACT	Ordered reported ..	11/15/23	800	Between zero and \$500,000	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Matthew Pickford
H.R. 6984	A bill to designate the Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the "Virginia Smith Federal Building," and for other purposes. H.R. 6984 would designate the federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the Virginia Smith Federal Building. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6984 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2029 period. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	800	0	0	Between zero and \$500,000	No	No	No	Matthew Pickford
H.R. 7671	Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act. H.R. 7671 would allow state and local governments that receive disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to repurpose unused funds that originally were allocated for management costs. State and local governments could use the funds to increase their administrative capacity to prepare for, recover from, or mitigate the effects of disasters. Under current law, unused funds are returned to the Disaster Relief Fund. Under the bill, those governments could retain unused funds for up to five years for disasters that are declared on or after the bill's enactment date. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 7671 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.	Ordered reported ..	09/25/24	450	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jon Sperl
H.R. 7779	Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024. H.R. 7779 would amend the Federal Emergency Management Agency to repurpose unused funds that originally were allocated for management costs. State and local governments could use the funds to increase their administrative capacity to prepare for, recover from, or mitigate the effects of disasters. Under current law, unused funds are returned to the Disaster Relief Fund. Under the bill, those governments could retain unused funds for up to five years for disasters that are declared on or after the bill's enactment date. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 7779 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	300	Between zero and \$500,000	0	Not estimated	Yes	Insufficient	No	Aurora Swanson

H.R. 7779 would establish a Good Samaritan pilot program and authorize the Environmental Protection Agency to issue permits for projects to remediate mine residue at abandoned hardrock mine sites. The bill would establish a remediation fund for federal agencies to administer projects carried out by Good Samaritans (entities that are not current owners or operators of an abandoned site; had no role in the creation of the mine residue; and are not potentially liable under any law for the remediation, treatment, or control of the mine residue). The spending would be funded by appropriations and by deposits from nonfederal sources, such as donations, agreements for long-term operations and maintenance costs, and insurance proceeds if a Good Samaritan fails to complete a project. The bill also would waive the applicability of all other laws with respect to the use of the fund, including the Antideficiency Act, which could allow amounts to be obligated before expected deposits into the fund are received. However, CBO expects that spending of any such advance obligations would be constrained by amounts ultimately deposited into the fund. On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 7779 would increase net direct spending by less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2034 period and have no effect on revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	400	0	Between zero and \$500,000	Not estimated	Yes	No	Zunara Naeem
H.R. 8505	Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act.								

H.R. 8505 would allow the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to assess penalties for entities that illegally ship household goods. The bill also would allow states to enforce and collect fines on such entities. As a result, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8505 could increase revenues because those penalties are recorded in the budget as revenues. Because the number of entities affected is likely to be small, CBO estimates that the increase in revenues would be less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2034 period. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would have no effect on direct spending. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	800	Between zero and \$500,000	Not estimated	Yes	No	Matthew Pickford
H.R. 8530	Improving Federal Building Security Act of 2024.							

H.R. 8530 would require federal agencies to respond within 90 days to recommendations by the Federal Protective Service, within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), concerning building security. Agencies could adopt or reject those recommendations but would need to explain their rejections. The bill would require DHS to track recommendations and responses and to report annually to the Congress concerning all recommendations. Enacting H.R. 8530 could increase direct spending by some agencies that are allowed to use fees, receipts from the sale of goods, and other collections to cover operating costs. CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be negligible because most of them can adjust amounts collected to reflect changes in operating costs. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8530 would have no effect on revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	400	0	0	0	No	Yes	Zunara Naeem
H.R. 8692	The Antrak Transparency and Accountability for Passengers and Taxpayer Act.								

H.R. 8692 would require Antrak to hold open meetings in accordance with current requirements for most federal agencies. Because Antrak is considered a nonfederal entity, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8692 would have no effect on the federal budget. The bill would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) that would not exceed the annual threshold established in UMRA (\$200 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	400	0	0	No	No	Yes	Kelly Durand
H.R. 8995	Baby Changing on Board Act								

H.R. 8995 would require Antrak trains purchased after the bill's enactment to include baby-changing tables in all train restrooms that are subject to the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. Because Antrak is considered a nonfederal entity, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8995 would have no effect on the federal budget. The bill would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) that would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$200 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	450	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	Jon Spertl
H.R. 9024	Extreme Weather and Heat Response Modernization Act.								

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget function	Direct spending, 2025–2034	Revenues, 2025–2034	Spending subject to appropriation, 2025–2029	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Budgetary effects after 2034	Mandates	Contact
	H.R. 9024 would require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to issue guidance for disaster relief programs concerning extreme-temperature events and to consider innovative preparedness and mitigation projects for such disasters in its grantmaking. The bill also would require FEMA to convene an advisory panel to review the definition of incident periods for extreme-temperature events and to issue regulations revising those periods. Finally, the bill would require FEMA to study the effects of extreme-temperature disasters, develop guidance and best practices for responding to such events, and report to the Congress. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9024 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.										
H.R. 9313	Think Differently About Building Accessibility Act.	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	800	0	0	Between zero and \$500,000	No	No	No	Matthew Pickford
	H.R. 9313 would direct the Government Accountability Office to report to the Congress concerning accessibility for people with disabilities in all office buildings controlled by the General Services Administration. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9313 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2029 period. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.										
H.R. 9541	POWER Act of 2024	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	450	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jon Sperl
	H.R. 9541 would authorize electric utilities that receive disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for emergency power restoration to implement mitigation activities as part of power restoration. Those actions would not disqualify utilities from receiving mitigation assistance under the Public Assistance Program. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9541 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.										
H.R. 9591	A bill to require the Administrator of General Services to sell certain property related to United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, and for other purposes.	Ordered reported ..	09/18/24	800	Between —\$500,000 and zero	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Emma Uebelhor
	H.R. 9591 would require the General Services Administration (GSA) to sell any property in the State of Missouri associated with the Federal Correctional Institution, Leavenworth, which is located in Kansas. Net proceeds from the sale would be deposited into the Federal Buildings Fund and recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts (that is, as reductions in direct spending). Using information from GSA, CBO estimates that the property could be sold for about \$500,000; therefore, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9591 would decrease direct spending by an insignificant amount. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not affect revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.										
H.R. 9750	Natural Disaster Recovery Program Act of 2024.	Ordered reported ..	09/25/24	450	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jon Sperl
	H.R. 9750 would create a Natural Disaster Recovery Fund, to be administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, from which the agency would make grants to state and tribal governments to cover unmet needs following major disasters. Those governments would determine how funds are spent. The bill also would expand the availability of disaster assistance for housing repairs and require several reports related to disaster recovery programs. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9750 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.										

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the performance goal and objective of this legislation is to study the effectiveness of local, state, and Federal emergency alerting systems.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that no provision of H.R. 2892, as amended, establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

In compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this bill, as reported, contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of the rule XXI.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act* (Public Law 104–4).

PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee finds that H.R. 2892, as amended, does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the definition of Section 5(b) of the appendix to Title 5, United States Code, are created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the *Congressional Accountability Act* (Public Law 104–1).

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section provides that this bill may be cited as the “Weather Alert Response and Notification Act” or the “WARN Act”.

Section 2. Effectiveness of local, state, and federal alerting systems

Subsection (a) directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of local, state, and Federal emergency alerting systems in disseminating timely and relevant information during weather-related emergencies.

Subsection (b) directs the Comptroller General of the United States to specifically study (1) the efficacy of various alert mediums, (2) the extent that guidance and training exists for developing alert content, and (3) whether improvements could be made to public alerting based on input from a selected sample of emergency managers, local officials, and community groups.

Subsection (c) directs that the Comptroller General, not later than 18 months after enactment, submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

As reported by the Committee, H.R. 2892 makes no changes in existing law.

