

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 320

AN ACT

To reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of
1977, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Earthquake
3 Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of
4 2025”.

5 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF FINDINGS.**

6 Section 2 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
7 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)—

9 (A) by striking “50 States, and the Com-
10 monwealth of Puerto Rico,” and inserting
11 “States and Tribal jurisdictions”;

12 (B) by striking “of them” and inserting
13 “States”;

14 (C) by striking “Tennessee,,” and inserting
15 “, Tennessee,”; and

16 (D) by striking “A large portion of the
17 population of the United States lives in areas
18 vulnerable to earthquake hazards” and insert-
19 ing “Almost half of the United States popu-
20 lation resides in areas that are at risk or expe-
21 riencing a damaging earthquake during the 50-
22 year period beginning on the date of the enact-
23 ment of the National Earthquake Hazards Re-
24 duction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025”;

25 (2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “A 2023 report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Geological Survey (FEMA P–366) estimates the annualized earthquake losses to the national building stock is \$14,700,000,000 per year and the total economic exposure to earthquake losses (buildings and contents) across the nation is \$107,800,000,000,000.”; and

(B) in the third sentence—

(i) by striking “and construction” and inserting “, construction, evaluation, and retrofitting”; and

(ii) by striking “and (E)” and inserting the following: “(E) inventories of buildings and infrastructure with high seismic risk, especially those that are critical to community resilience, (F) programs that require or incentivize replacement or retrofit of existing buildings and infrastructure with high seismic risk, especially those that are critical to community resilience, and (G)”;

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Tribal,” after “local,”;

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “could provide” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “is necessary to provide the scientific understanding needed to improve and expand the earthquake early warning system.”;

(5) in paragraph (8), by striking “cave-ins” and inserting “collapse”;

(6) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “and local” and inserting “local, and Tribal government”;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “transfer knowledge and information to” and inserting “exchange knowledge and information between”; and

(C) in the third sentence, by striking “specifications, criteria” and inserting “guidelines, codes, standards”;

(7) in paragraph (12)—

(A) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking “When earthquakes occur, the built environment is generally” and inserting “Relatively newer buildings and infrastructure have generally been”; and

1 (ii) by striking “and is” and inserting
2 “when earthquakes occur, but most are”;
3 and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following: “In
5 addition, buildings and infrastructure built to
6 older codes and standards may pose significant
7 risk of injury, loss of life, or irreparable dam-
8 age. A 2021 report submitted to Congress pur-
9 suant to section 8(b), as amended by section 5
10 of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction
11 Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public
12 Law 115–307), by the Federal Emergency
13 Management Agency and the National Institute
14 of Standards and Technology (FEMA P2090/
15 NST SP–1254) provides recommendations for
16 improving post-earthquake functional recovery
17 time of the built environment to support com-
18 munity resilience goals and many of these rec-
19 ommendations still need to be implemented.”;
20 and
21 (8) in paragraph (13)—

22 (A) in the first sentence, by inserting “in
23 2011” after “a study”;

24 (B) in the second sentence, by inserting
25 “(in 2011 dollars)” after “\$300,000,000”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:
2 “The cost of actual seismic retrofits to reduce
3 known risks is not included in such valuation.”.

4 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF PURPOSE.**

5 Section 3 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
6 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7702) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking “and local” and inserting
9 “, local, and Tribal government”; and

10 (B) by striking “locations and structures”
11 and inserting “buildings and infrastructure”;

12 (2) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) by striking “and construction” and in-
14 serting “, construction, evaluation, and retro-
15 fitting”; and

16 (B) by inserting “housing and care facili-
17 ties for vulnerable populations,” after “occu-
18 paney buildings,”; and

19 (3) in paragraph (4)—

20 (A) by striking “and local” and inserting
21 “, local, and Tribal government”; and

22 (B) by striking “encourage consideration
23 of” and inserting “incorporate”.

1 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 4 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
3 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7703) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including
5 secondary effects such as earthquake-caused
6 tsunamis” after “earthquakes”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(11) The term ‘Tribal government’ has the
9 meaning given the term ‘tribal government’ in sec-
10 tion 421 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
11 (2 U.S.C. 658).

12 “(12) The term ‘functional recovery’ means a
13 post-earthquake performance state in which a build-
14 ing or lifeline infrastructure system is maintained,
15 or restored, to safely and adequately support the
16 basic intended functions associated with the pre-
17 earthquake use or occupancy of a building, or the
18 pre-earthquake service level of a lifeline infrastruc-
19 ture system.

20 “(13) The term ‘earthquake forecast’ means a
21 statement of probabilities that 1 or more earth-
22 quakes within a clearly specified magnitude range
23 may occur within a specified time interval and geo-
24 graphic region.”.

1 **SEC. 5. IMPROVEMENTS TO NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZ-**
2 **ARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Subsection (a)(2) of sec-
4 tion 5 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977
5 (42 U.S.C. 7704) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

7 (A) in the matter before clause (i)—

8 (i) by striking “and local” and insert-
9 ing “local, and Tribal”; and

10 (ii) by striking “and constructing”
11 and inserting “, designing, constructing,
12 evaluating, and retrofitting”;

13 (B) by amending clause (ii) to read as fol-
14 lows:

15 “(ii) development of standards, guide-
16 lines, and voluntary standards, guidelines,
17 and consensus codes for earthquake haz-
18 ards reduction for buildings, structures,
19 and lifeline infrastructure, including post-
20 earthquake recovery-based performance ob-
21 jectives that address reoccupancy and
22 downtime of community-prioritized build-
23 ings, structures, and services provided by
24 lifeline infrastructure;”;

(C) in clause (iii), by striking “and hazards reduction; and” and inserting “functional recovery, and other hazards reduction topics;”;

(D) in clause (iv)—

(i) by inserting “and maintaining” after “publishing”;

(ii) by inserting “in coordination with the National Tsunami Hazards Mitigation Program, tsunami susceptibility,” after “liquefaction susceptibility,”; and

(iii) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) subject to the availability of funds, development of best practices and guidelines to create an inventory of and conduct seismic performance evaluations of buildings, structures, and lifeline infrastructure with high seismic risk, especially those that are critical to community resilience; and

“(vi) subject to the availability of funds, the provision of technical assistance upon request by a State, local, or Tribal government regarding—

1 “(I) the creation of an inventory
 2 of buildings, structures, and lifeline
 3 infrastructure;

4 “(II) the performance of seismic
 5 performance evaluations; and

6 “(III) cost-effective best practices
 7 for retrofitting existing buildings,
 8 structures, and lifeline infrastruc-
 9 ture.”;

10 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and”
 11 and inserting a semicolon;

12 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
 13 paragraph (E); and

14 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 “(D) improve the understanding of—

17 “(i) the multiple hazards associated
 18 with earthquakes, including liquefaction,
 19 tsunamis, landslides, and structural fires;
 20 and

21 “(ii) potential mitigation measures for
 22 such hazards; and”.

23 (b) DUTIES OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COM-
 24 MITTEE ON EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION.—Sub-
 25 section (a)(3)(D)(ii) of such section is amended—

1 (1) in subclause (V), by inserting “and associ-
 2 ated secondary hazards” before the period at the
 3 end; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(VIII) Coordinating with the
 6 Chair of the Federal Communications
 7 Commission on the timely broad-
 8 casting of emergency alerts generated
 9 by the earthquake early warning sys-
 10 tem.”.

11 (c) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Subsection (a)(4)(A) of
 12 such section is amended by striking “under paragraph
 13 (3)(D)(i)(I)” each place it appears and inserting “under
 14 paragraph (3)(D)(ii)(I)”.

15 (d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Subsection (a)(5)(A) of
 16 such section is amended—

17 (1) by inserting “the Chair of the Scientific
 18 Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee and” after
 19 “including”; and

20 (2) by striking “and local government” and in-
 21 serting “, local, and Tribal governments”.

22 (e) LEAD AGENCY FOR RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRO-
 23 GRAM AGENCIES.—Subsection (b)(1) of such section is
 24 amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and local” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “local, and Tribal governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, and others with a role in planning, designing, constructing, evaluating, and retrofitting buildings and lifeline infrastructure;”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) improve the understanding of earthquake-caused fires and support the development of engineering tools and construction methods that mitigate the risk of fire following earthquakes;

“(D) develop, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, best practices and guidelines for a State, local, or Tribal government to create an inventory of buildings, structures, or lifeline infrastructure that are critical to community resilience or otherwise have high seismic risk;

1 “(E) provide, in coordination with the Ad-
 2 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
 3 ment Agency, technical assistance to a State,
 4 local, or Tribal government requesting such as-
 5 sistance with respect to the creation of an in-
 6 ventory of buildings, structures, or lifeline in-
 7 frastructure;”.

8 (f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY
 9 MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—Subsection (b)(2) of such sec-
 10 tion is amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (A) in clause (i)—

13 (i) by inserting “and Tribal govern-
 14 ments” after “States”;

15 (ii) by inserting “and performance
 16 evaluations” after “safety inspections”;
 17 and

18 (iii) by inserting “and improve post-
 19 earthquake functional recovery” after
 20 “seismic safety”;

21 (B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, including
 22 Tribal entities,” after “appropriate audiences”;

23 (C) in clause (iii)—

24 (i) by striking “of seismic resistant”
 25 and inserting “to all appropriate audi-

1 ences, including Tribal governments, of”;
 2 and

3 (ii) by inserting “that enhance seismic
 4 safety, improve post-earthquake functional
 5 recovery, and reduce losses from earth-
 6 quakes” after “and lifeline infrastructure”;
 7 (D) in clause (iv)—

8 (i) in striking “and local” and insert-
 9 ing “, local, and Tribal”; and

10 (ii) by striking “; and” and inserting
 11 a semicolon;

12 (E) by redesignating clause (v) as clause
 13 (vi); and

14 (F) by inserting after clause (iv) the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 “(v) shall provide technical assistance
 17 to State, local, or Tribal governmental en-
 18 tities in the creation of evacuation plans in
 19 the event of an earthquake, landslide, tsu-
 20 nami, or other earthquake-related hazard;
 21 and”; and

22 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

23 (A) in the subparagraph heading, by in-
 24 serting “AND TRIBAL” after “STATE”;

1 (B) in the matter before clause (i), by in-
2 serting “or Tribal government” after “State”;
3 and

4 (C) in clause (i), by striking “safety” and
5 inserting “performance, community resilience,
6 or public awareness”.

7 (g) RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNITED STATES GEOLOGI-
8 CAL SURVEY.—Subsection (b)(3) of such section is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and
11 local” and inserting “, local, and Tribal”;

12 (2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, the
13 Chair of the Federal Communications Commission,”
14 after “Agency”;

15 (3) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
16 through (K) as subparagraphs (I) through (P), re-
17 spectively;

18 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(D) coordinate with the Administrator of
21 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
22 istration and the Administrator of the Federal
23 Emergency Management Agency on data shar-
24 ing and resource allocation to support a timely
25 response to oceanic earthquakes and tsunamis;

1 “(E) in consultation with the Chair of the
2 Federal Communications Commission, ensure
3 that earthquake alerts and early warnings are
4 broadcast as rapidly and reliably as possible, in
5 the predominant languages in the affected re-
6 gion, to ensure maximum warning time for
7 nearby persons;

8 “(F) expand the earthquake early warning
9 system within and to additional high risk haz-
10 ard areas, including making improvements as
11 practicable to improve detection and increase
12 the time between warning messages and percep-
13 tible ground motion;

14 “(G) coordinating with affected State and
15 Tribal governments on earthquake early warn-
16 ing system improvements;

17 “(H) issue earthquake forecasts, when ap-
18 propriate, for aftershocks associated with sig-
19 nificant earthquakes in the United States;”;

20 (5) in subparagraph (I), as redesignated by
21 paragraph (3), by inserting “the Chair of the Fed-
22 eral Communications Commission,” after “Agency,”;

23 (6) in subparagraph (L), as redesignated by
24 paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a
25 semicolon;

1 (7) in subparagraph (M), as redesignated by
 2 paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and
 3 inserting a semicolon; and

4 (8) in subparagraph (O), as redesignated by
 5 paragraph (3), by inserting “maps of natural haz-
 6 ards associated with earthquakes and” after “includ-
 7 ing”.

8 (h) RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL SCIENCE
 9 FOUNDATION.—Subsection (b)(4)(A) of such section is
 10 amended—

11 (1) in clause (iii), by inserting “including up-
 12 dated tsunami and liquefaction risk maps,” after
 13 “maps,”; and

14 (2) in clause (vii), by striking “Historically
 15 Black Colleges and Universities and those serving
 16 large proportions of Hispanics, Native Americans,
 17 Asian-Pacific Americans, and other underrep-
 18 resented populations” and inserting “institutions de-
 19 scribed in section 371(a) of the Higher Education
 20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))”.

21 **SEC. 6. SEISMIC PERFORMANCE PROPERTY STANDARDS.**

22 Section 947 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Af-
 23 fordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 7704a) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “safety” both
 25 places it appears and inserting “performance”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “shake-related
 2 property damage” and inserting “seismic-related
 3 property damage to improve the post-earthquake
 4 functional recovery time”.

5 **SEC. 7. SEISMIC STANDARDS.**

6 Section 8 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
 7 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7705b) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “under para-
 9 graph (1)” and inserting “under subsection (a)”;
 10 and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—
 13 Each Program agency, as part of their Program respon-
 14 sibilities, shall implement, within the Program activities
 15 authorized by this Act, the applicable recommendations in
 16 the report submitted pursuant to subsection (b) to im-
 17 prove the performance of the built environment in terms
 18 of post-earthquake reoccupancy and functional recovery
 19 time.

20 “(d) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—

21 “(1) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO INTERAGENCY CO-
 22 ORDINATING COMMITTEE.—No later than September
 23 30, 2025, and not less frequently than once every 2
 24 years thereafter, each Program agency shall submit
 25 to the Interagency Coordinating Committee a report

on activities and progress made to support, promote, or advance the implementation of the recommendations included in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

“(2) INCLUSION IN BIENNIAL REPORTS OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—The Interagency Coordinating Committee shall include the information received under paragraph (1) in each biennial report submitted under section 5(a)(4), including consideration of a prioritized work plan to coordinate activities among the Program agencies and the necessary Program budget to fully implement the recommendations described in paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 8. IMPROVEMENTS TO POST-EARTHQUAKE INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM.

Section 11 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7705e) is amended, in the matter before paragraph (1)—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting “domestic and international” after “investigate major”; and

(2) in the fifth sentence, by inserting “Federal Emergency Management” before “Agency”.

1 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PROGRAM.—Sub-
3 section (a)(8) of section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards
4 Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “, and”
6 and inserting a comma; and

7 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(K) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2024,

10 “(L) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2025,

11 “(M) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2026,

12 “(N) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2027, and

13 “(O) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2028.”.

14 (b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Sub-
15 section (b)(2) of such section is amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “; and”
17 and inserting a semicolon;

18 (2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period
19 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(K) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2024, of
22 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
23 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
24 tional Seismic System established under section
25 13;

1 “(L) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2025, of
2 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
3 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
4 tional Seismic System established under section
5 13;

6 “(M) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2026, of
7 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
8 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
9 tional Seismic System established under section
10 13;

11 “(N) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2027, of
12 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
13 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
14 tional Seismic System established under section
15 13; and

16 “(O) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2028, of
17 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
18 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
19 tional Seismic System established under section
20 13.”.

21 (c) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—Subsection
22 (c)(2) of such section is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “, and”
24 and inserting a comma;

1 (2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period
2 at the end and inserting a comma; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(K) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2024,

5 “(L) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2025,

6 “(M) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2026,

7 “(N) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2027,

8 and

9 “(O) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2028.”.

10 (d) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
11 TECHNOLOGY.—Subsection (d)(2) of such section is
12 amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “, and”
14 and inserting a comma;

15 (2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period
16 at the end and inserting a comma; and

17 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(K) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2024,

20 “(L) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2025,

21 “(M) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2026,

22 “(N) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2027, and

23 “(O) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2028,”.

1 **SEC. 10. FUNDING CONTROLS.**

2 Section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
3 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706), as amended by section 9, is
4 further amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) FUNDING.—Funds used by an agency to carry
6 out this Act may, as provided in advance in appropriations
7 Acts, only come from amounts authorized to be appro-
8 priated to that agency.

9 “(f) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any amount appro-
10 priated to an account of a Federal agency for the Federal
11 agency to carry out a responsibility under this Act that
12 is cancelled pursuant to section 1552(a) of title 31, United
13 States Code, shall be transferred to the general fund of
14 the Treasury and be applied to deficit reduction.”.

Passed the Senate January 5, 2026.

Attest:

Secretary.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 320

AN ACT

To reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction
Act of 1977, and for other purposes.