To assist States and local governments develop and implement emergency notification systems suitable for use on public recreational lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON (for herself and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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

A BILL

To assist States and local governments develop and implement emergency notification systems suitable for use on public recreational lands, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Communication and Alert Maintenance Program for Early Response Act” or “CAMPER Act”.

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SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Park System manages 392 sites that cover more than 83 million acres.

(2) According to the National Park Service, there were 275,581,547 recreational visits to National Park System sites in 2007, which marks an increase of nearly 3 million visits from 2006.

(3) The number of recreational visits specified in paragraph (2) does not include Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, or Army Corps of Engineer sites or include State and local parks, which also cover a significant land area.

(4) For example, in California, over 79.5 million people visited California State Parks, over 1.3 million acres of land, in the 2007/2008 fiscal year.

(5) Many State and local park systems, including the California Department of Parks and Recreation, have no emergency notification system suitable for use on public recreational lands to warn persons using such lands of imminent emergency situations.
SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS FOR USE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECREATIONAL LANDS.

(a) Technical Assistance Authorized.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may provide technical assistance to a State or local government to develop and implement an emergency notification system suitable for use on public recreational lands administered by the State or local government to warn persons using such lands of emergency situations, including natural disasters and acts of terrorism or other man-made disasters.

(b) Implementation Grants.—

(1) Grants Authorized.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may make grants, on a competitive basis, to States and local governments to procure and install emergency notification systems on public recreational lands, as described in subsection (a).

(2) Maximum Grant.—A grant under this subsection may not exceed $100,000.

(3) Cost-Sharing Requirements.—

(A) Recipient Share.—A grant recipient shall provide matching non-Federal funds, either in cash or in-kind support, in an amount
equal to not less than five percent of the Federal funds provided in a grant under this subsection.

(B) Waiver.—The Secretary may establish conditions under which the cost-sharing requirements of subparagraph (A) may be reduced or waived.

(c) Reporting Requirement.—For each fiscal year in which technical assistance and grants are provided under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report—

(1) describing the present state of preparedness of State park and recreation departments to provide adequate emergency notification in the event of emergency situations, including natural disasters and acts of terrorism or other man-made disasters; and

(2) containing such recommendations for additional legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.