H. R. 861

To amend the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 to require an emergency notification meeting in the event of the release of an extremely hazardous substance from a facility, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 5, 2021

Ms. Blunt Rochester (for herself, Ms. Matsui, Ms. Norton, Mr. Carson, Ms. Lee of California, Mrs. Watson Coleman, and Mr. Casten) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 to require an emergency notification meeting in the event of the release of an extremely hazardous substance from a facility, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Alerting Localities of Environmental Risks and Threats Act of 2021”.

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VerDate Sep 11 2014 03:07 Feb 25, 2021 Jkt 019200 PO 00000 Frm 00001 Fmt 6652 Sfmt 6201 E:\BILLS\H861.IH H861pamtmann on DSKBC07HB2PROD with BILLS
SEC. 2. PUBLIC MEETINGS ADDED.

(a) EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION MEETING.—Section 304(b) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11004(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) PUBLIC MEETING.—Not later than 72 hours after a release which requires notice under subsection (a), the owner or operator of the applicable facility shall—

“(A) publish a notice in a local newspaper, and post such notice at a local library and other local government buildings and on the public website for the facility, if any, with at least 24 hours notice, of a public meeting, including—

“(i) the date of such meeting;
“(ii) the time of such meeting; and
“(iii) the location of such meeting;

and

“(B) hold such meeting, providing, consistent with section 322, the information required under paragraph (2), to the extent such information is known at the time of the meeting and so long as no delay in responding to the emergency results.”.

(b) ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING.—Subtitle A of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act
of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section: "SEC. 306. ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING. "Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the owner or operator of a facility subject to the requirements of this sub-title shall—

“(1) publish a notice in a local newspaper, at least 7 days in advance, of a public meeting, including—

“(A) the date of such meeting;
“(B) the time of such meeting; and
“(C) the location of such meeting; and

“(2) hold such meeting, providing, consistent with section 322—

“(A) the chemical name of each substance on the list published under section 302(a) that was present at such facility, in an amount in excess of the threshold planning quantity established for such substance under such section, at any time in the preceding calendar year;
“(B) an estimate of the maximum amount of each such substance present at such facility during the preceding calendar year; and
“(C) the details of the methods and procedures to be followed to respond to a release of such a substance pursuant to the applicable emergency plan prepared under section 303(c).”.

(c) Enforcement.—Section 325(c)(1) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11045(c)(1)) is amended by striking “section 312” and inserting “section 306, 312,”.

(d) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents in section 300(b) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 305 the following:

“Sec. 306. Annual public meeting.”.