

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7848

To establish the National Weather Safety Board to investigate certain major disasters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2026

Mr. SORENSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish the National Weather Safety Board to investigate certain major disasters, 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 Weather
5 Safety Board Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WEATHER SAFETY BOARD.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, there shall be estab-
9 lished as an independent entity a safety board to be known

1 as the “National Weather Safety Board” (in this section
2 referred to as the “Safety Board”).

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Safety Board shall be
5 composed of not fewer than 7 members appointed by
6 the President, by and with the advice and consent
7 of the Senate. Not more than 4 members may be ap-
8 pointed from the same political party.

9 (2) CANDIDATE LIST.—The Administrator of
10 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
11 tion and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall
12 jointly submit to the President a list of candidates
13 for consideration for appointment to the Safety
14 Board under paragraph (1). Such candidates shall
15 have professional backgrounds in any of the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (A) Atmospheric and hydrological sciences.

18 (B) Commercial meteorological sciences.

19 (C) Social sciences.

20 (D) Academia.

21 (E) Emergency management administra-
22 tion and operations.

23 (3) TERMS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of
2 each member of the Safety Board shall be 5
3 years.

4 (B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed
5 to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration
6 of the term for which the member's predecessor
7 was appointed shall be appointed only for the
8 remainder of that term. A member may serve
9 after the expiration of that member's term until
10 a successor is appointed in accordance with this
11 subsection.

12 (C) REMOVAL.—The President may only
13 remove a member for neglect of duty or malfea-
14 sance in office.

15 (4) QUORUM.—Five members of the Safety
16 Board shall constitute a quorum.

17 (c) OFFICES.—The Safety Board shall establish of-
18 fices as necessary to carry out investigations under sub-
19 section (d).

20 (d) INVESTIGATION OF COVERED MAJOR DISAS-
21 TERS.—

22 (1) SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120
24 days after the establishment of the Safety
25 Board, the Safety Board shall develop a system,

1 in coordination with the Chief of Engineers, the
2 Secretary of Homeland Security, the Federal
3 Communications Commission, the Adminis-
4 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
5 Administration, and the Director of National
6 Weather Service, to provide information de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (B) to members of the
8 Safety Board regarding a covered major dis-
9 aster before a vote is held pursuant to para-
10 graph (2).

11 (B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The in-
12 formation described in this subparagraph is the
13 following:

14 (i) The number of people impacted by
15 a covered major disaster referred to in sub-
16 paragraph (A).

17 (ii) The severity of such disaster.

18 (iii) The economic impact of such dis-
19 aster.

20 (2) PROCEDURE.—Not later than 14 days after
21 the date on which a severe weather event is declared
22 to be a covered major disaster, the Safety Board
23 shall conduct a vote to determine whether to inves-
24 tigate such disaster. Such vote shall be based on the
25 information provided pursuant to paragraph (1).

1 The Safety Board may so investigate such a disaster
2 only if a quorum of the members present and voting
3 vote in the affirmative.

4 (3) ENTITIES INVESTIGATED.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the Safety Board
6 votes in the affirmative to investigate a covered
7 major disaster pursuant to paragraph (2), the
8 Safety Board shall carry out the following:

9 (i) Investigate, with respect to such
10 disaster, the preparedness for and response
11 to such disaster of the entities specified in
12 subparagraph (C), as the Safety Board de-
13 termines relevant.

14 (ii) Review, with respect to such dis-
15 aster, the following:

16 (I) Any determinations made by
17 such entities as a result of weather
18 forecasts or warnings to protect life
19 and property.

20 (II) Whether such determinations
21 were sufficient.

22 (B) COMPLIANCE.—Upon request of the
23 Safety Board, an entity specified in subpara-
24 graph (C) subject to an investigation conducted
25 pursuant to this subsection, shall provide to the

1 Safety Board any data or information the Safe-
2 ty Board determines necessary to aid in such
3 investigation.

4 (C) ENTITIES SPECIFIED.—An entity spec-
5 ified in this subparagraph is any of the fol-
6 lowing, as the Safety Board determines rel-
7 evant:

8 (i) The Army Corps of Engineers.

9 (ii) The Department of Homeland Se-
10 curity, including the Federal Emergency
11 Management Agency.

12 (iii) The Federal Communications
13 Commission.

14 (iv) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
15 pheric Administration.

16 (v) The National Weather Service.

17 (4) SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.—The Safety Board
18 may issue a subpoena, enforceable in a Federal dis-
19 trict court, to obtain testimony or evidence related to
20 an investigation conducted pursuant to this sub-
21 section.

22 (e) REPORTS.—

23 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 90
24 days after the conclusion of a covered major dis-
25 aster, the Safety Board shall submit to the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
2 the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space,
3 and Technology of the House of Representatives,
4 and, upon request, the President, a preliminary re-
5 port relating to an investigation conducted pursuant
6 to subsection (d) regarding such disaster.

7 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 20 months
8 after the date on which the Safety Board begins an
9 investigation under subsection (d), the Safety Board
10 shall submit to the Committee on Commerce,
11 Science, Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
12 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
13 House of Representatives, and, upon request, the
14 President, a report that includes the following:

15 (A) A summary of the findings of such in-
16 vestigation.

17 (B) Based on such findings, any rec-
18 ommendations for each entity specified in sub-
19 section (d)(3)(C) investigated in accordance
20 with such investigation to improve preparedness
21 for and response to covered major disasters.

22 (f) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Safety Board shall
23 develop, update, and make publicly available on a website
24 of the Safety Board the following information:

1 (1) The recommendations included in a report
2 submitted under subsection (e)(2)(B).

3 (2) The entity specified in subsection (d)(3)(C)
4 with respect to which each such recommendation
5 was made.

6 (3) Whether each such entity has implemented
7 each such recommendation.

8 (g) TERMINATION.—The Safety Board shall termi-
9 nate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which
10 the final member of the Safety Board is confirmed by the
11 Senate.

12 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) COVERED MAJOR DISASTER.—The term
14 “covered major disaster” means any of the following:

15 (A) A severe weather event that is declared
16 under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford
17 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
18 (42 U.S.C. 5170) to be a major disaster.

19 (B) A severe weather event that results in
20 any of the following:

21 (i) At least 10 fatalities.

22 (ii) At least 100 injuries.

23 (iii) Rapid-onset mass-casualties, as
24 determined by the Safety Board.

1 (2) SEVERE WEATHER EVENT.—The term “se-
2 vere weather event” means a hurricane, tropical
3 storm, flood, tornado, winter weather event, extreme
4 cold event, or tsunami.

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