

Union Calendar No. 135

105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 2249

[Report No. 105-238, Part I]

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for carrying out the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes.

AUGUST 1, 1997

Reported from the Committee on Science

AUGUST 1, 1997

Referral to the Committee on Resources extended for a period ending not later than August 1, 1997

AUGUST 1, 1997

Committee on Resources discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 1997

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself and Mr. BROWN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, 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

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A BILL

To authorize appropriations for carrying out the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, 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. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 Section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
5 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(7)—

7 (A) by striking “and” after “1995,”; and

8 (B) by inserting before the period at the
9 end the following: “, \$20,900,000 for the fiscal
10 year ending September 30, 1998, and
11 \$21,500,000 for the fiscal year ending Septem-
12 ber 30, 1999”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) by striking “and” after “September
15 30, 1995;”;

16 (B) by inserting before the period at the
17 end the following: “; \$52,565,660 for the fiscal
18 year ending September 30, 1998, of which
19 \$3,800,000 shall be used for the Global Seismic
20 Network operated by the Agency; and
21 \$54,052,630 for the fiscal year ending Septem-
22 ber 30, 1999, of which \$3,800,000 shall be
23 used for the Global Seismic Network operated
24 by the Agency”; and

25 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under this
2 subsection, at least—

3 “(1) \$8,000,000 of the amount authorized to be
4 appropriated for the fiscal year ending September
5 30, 1998; and

6 “(2) \$8,250,000 of the amount authorized for
7 the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999,
8 shall be used for carrying out a competitive, peer-reviewed
9 program under which the Director, in close coordination
10 with and as a complement to related activities of the Unit-
11 ed States Geological Survey, awards grants to, or enters
12 into cooperative agreements with, State and local govern-
13 ments and persons or entities from the academic commu-
14 nity and the private sector.”;

15 (3) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) by striking “and” after “September
17 30, 1995,”; and

18 (B) by inserting before the period at the
19 end the following: “, (3) \$18,450,000 for engi-
20 neering research and \$11,920,000 for geo-
21 sciences research for the fiscal year ending Sep-
22 tember 30, 1998, and (4) \$19,000,000 for engi-
23 neering research and \$12,280,000 for geo-
24 sciences research for the fiscal year ending Sep-
25 tember 30, 1999”; and

1 (4) in the last sentence of subsection (d)—

2 (A) by striking “and” after “September
3 30, 1995,”; and

4 (B) by inserting before the period at the
5 end the following: “, \$2,000,000 for the fiscal
6 year ending September 30, 1998, and
7 \$2,060,000 for the fiscal year ending Septem-
8 ber 30, 1999”.

9 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF REAL-TIME SEISMIC HAZARD**
10 **WARNING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT, AND**
11 **OTHER ACTIVITIES.**

12 (a) **AUTOMATIC SEISMIC WARNING SYSTEM DEVEL-**
13 **OPMENT.—**

14 (1) **DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

15 (A) **DIRECTOR.—**The term “Director”
16 means the Director of the United States Geo-
17 logical Survey.

18 (B) **HIGH-RISK ACTIVITY.—**The term
19 “high-risk activity” means an activity that may
20 be adversely affected by a moderate to severe
21 seismic event (as determined by the Director).
22 The term includes high-speed rail
23 transportation.

24 (C) **REAL-TIME SEISMIC WARNING SYS-**
25 **TEM.—**The term “real-time seismic warning

1 system” means a system that issues warnings
2 in real-time from a network of seismic sensors
3 to a set of analysis processors, directly to re-
4 ceivers related to high-risk activities.

5 (2) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall conduct a
6 program to develop a prototype real-time seismic
7 warning system. The Director may enter into such
8 agreements or contracts as may be necessary to
9 carry out the program.

10 (3) UPGRADE OF SEISMIC SENSORS.—In carry-
11 ing out a program under paragraph (2), in order to
12 increase the accuracy and speed of seismic event
13 analysis to provide for timely warning signals, the
14 Director shall provide for the upgrading of the net-
15 work of seismic sensors participating in the proto-
16 type to increase the capability of the sensors—

17 (A) to measure accurately large magnitude
18 seismic events (as determined by the Director);
19 and

20 (B) to acquire additional parametric data.

21 (4) DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND
22 COMPUTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out a
23 program under paragraph (2), the Director shall de-
24 velop a communications and computation infrastruc-
25 ture that is necessary—

1 (A) to process the data obtained from the
2 upgraded seismic sensor network referred to in
3 paragraph (3); and

4 (B) to provide for, and carry out, such
5 communications engineering and development
6 as is necessary to facilitate—

7 (i) the timely flow of data within a
8 real-time seismic hazard warning system;
9 and

10 (ii) the issuance of warnings to receiv-
11 ers related to high-risk activities.

12 (5) PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER HARDWARE
13 AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—In carrying out a pro-
14 gram under paragraph (2), the Director shall pro-
15 cure such computer hardware and computer soft-
16 ware as may be necessary to carry out the program.

17 (6) REPORTS ON PROGRESS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120
19 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
20 the Director shall prepare and submit to Con-
21 gress a report that contains a plan for imple-
22 menting a real-time seismic hazard warning
23 system.

24 (B) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—Not later
25 than 1 year after the date on which the Direc-

1 tor submits the report under subparagraph (A),
2 and annually thereafter, the Director shall pre-
3 pare and submit to Congress a report that sum-
4 marizes the progress of the Director in imple-
5 menting the plan referred to in subparagraph
6 (A).

7 (7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
8 addition to the amounts made available to the Direc-
9 tor under section 12(b) of the Earthquake Hazards
10 Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706(b)), there
11 are authorized to be appropriated to the Department
12 of the Interior, to be used by the Director to carry
13 out paragraph (2), \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal
14 years 1998 and 1999.

15 (b) SEISMIC MONITORING NETWORKS ASSESS-
16 MENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide
18 for an assessment of regional seismic monitoring
19 networks in the United States. The assessment shall
20 address—

21 (A) the need to update the infrastructure
22 used for collecting seismological data for re-
23 search and monitoring of seismic events in the
24 United States;

1 (B) the need for expanding the capability
 2 to record strong ground motions, especially for
 3 urban area engineering purposes;

4 (C) the need to measure accurately large
 5 magnitude seismic events (as determined by the
 6 Director);

7 (D) the need to acquire additional para-
 8 metric data; and

9 (E) projected costs for meeting the needs
 10 described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

11 (2) RESULTS.—The Director shall transmit the
 12 results of the assessment conducted under this sub-
 13 section to Congress not later than 1 year after the
 14 date of enactment of this Act.

15 (c) EARTH SCIENCE TEACHING MATERIALS.—

16 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

17 (A) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The
 18 term “local educational agency” has the mean-
 19 ing given that term in section 14101 of the Ele-
 20 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
 21 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

22 (B) SCHOOL.—The term “school” means a
 23 nonprofit institutional day or residential school
 24 that provides education for any of the grades
 25 kindergarten through grade 12.

1 (2) TEACHING MATERIALS.—In a manner con-
2 sistent with the requirement under section 5(b)(4) of
3 the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42
4 U.S.C. 7704(b)(4)) and subject to a merit based
5 competitive process, the Director of the National
6 Science Foundation may use funds made available to
7 him or her under section 12(c) of such Act (42
8 U.S.C. 7706(c)) to develop, and make available to
9 schools and local educational agencies for use by
10 schools, at a minimal cost, earth science teaching
11 materials that are designed to meet the needs of ele-
12 mentary and secondary school teachers and stu-
13 dents.

14 (d) IMPROVED SEISMIC HAZARD ASSESSMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall
17 conduct a project to improve the seismic hazard as-
18 sessment of seismic zones.

19 (2) REPORTS.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, and an-
22 nually during the period of the project, the Di-
23 rector shall prepare, and submit to Congress, a
24 report on the findings of the project.

1 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 60
2 days after the date of termination of the project
3 conducted under this subsection, the Director
4 shall prepare and submit to Congress a report
5 concerning the findings of the project.

6 (e) STUDY OF NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY
7 TRAINING CAPABILITIES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Federal
9 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct an
10 assessment of the need for additional Federal disas-
11 ter-response training capabilities that are applicable
12 to earthquake response.

13 (2) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assess-
14 ment conducted under this subsection shall in-
15 clude—

16 (A) a review of the disaster training pro-
17 grams offered by the Federal Emergency Man-
18 agement Agency at the time of the assessment;

19 (B) an estimate of the number and types
20 of emergency response personnel that have, dur-
21 ing the period beginning on January 1, 1990,
22 and ending on July 1, 1997, sought the train-
23 ing referred to in subparagraph (A), but have
24 been unable to receive that training as a result
25 of the oversubscription of the training capabili-

1 ties of the Federal Emergency Management
2 Agency; and

3 (C) a recommendation on the need to pro-
4 vide additional Federal disaster-response train-
5 ing centers.

6 (3) REPORT.—Not later than February 15,
7 1998, the Director of the Federal Emergency Man-
8 agement Agency shall prepare and submit to Con-
9 gress a report that addresses the results of the as-
10 sessment conducted under this subsection.

11 **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE ENGINEERING RESEARCH PLAN.**

12 (a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—Section
13 5(b)(4) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977
14 (42 U.S.C. 7704(b)(4)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
16 graph (D);

17 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
18 paragraph (E) and inserting “; and”; and

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

20 “(F) develop, in conjunction with the Fed-
21 eral Emergency Management Agency, the Na-
22 tional Institute of Standards and Technology,
23 and the United States Geological Survey, a
24 comprehensive plan for earthquake engineering
25 research to effectively use existing testing facili-

1 ties and laboratories (in existence at the time of
2 the development of the plan), upgrade facilities
3 and equipment as needed, and integrate new,
4 innovative testing approaches to the research
5 infrastructure in a systematic manner.”.

6 (b) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGEN-
7 CY.—Section 5(b)(1) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduc-
8 tion Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7704(b)(1)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
10 graph (D);

11 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
12 paragraph (E) and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding after subparagraph (E) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(F) work with the National Science Foun-
16 dation, the National Institute of Standards and
17 Technology, and the United States Geological
18 Survey, to develop a comprehensive plan for
19 earthquake engineering research to effectively
20 use existing testing facilities and laboratories
21 (existing at the time of the development of the
22 plan), upgrade facilities and equipment as need-
23 ed, and integrate new, innovative testing ap-
24 proaches to the research infrastructure in a sys-
25 tematic manner.”.

1 (c) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Section
2 5(b)(3) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977
3 (42 U.S.C. 7704(b)(3)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
5 graph (E);

6 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
7 paragraph (G) and inserting “; and”; and

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

9 “(H) work with the National Science
10 Foundation, the Federal Emergency Manage-
11 ment Agency, and the National Institute of
12 Standards and Technology to develop a com-
13 prehensive plan for earthquake engineering re-
14 search to effectively use existing testing facili-
15 ties and laboratories (in existence at the time of
16 the development of the plan), upgrade facilities
17 and equipment as needed, and integrate new,
18 innovative testing approaches to the research
19 infrastructure in a systematic manner.”.

20 (d) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
21 TECHNOLOGY.—Section 5(b)(5) of the Earthquake Haz-
22 ards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7704(b)(5)) is
23 amended—

24 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
25 graph (B);

1 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
2 paragraph (C) and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(D) work with the National Science
5 Foundation, the Federal Emergency Manage-
6 ment Agency, and the United States Geological
7 Survey to develop a comprehensive plan for
8 earthquake engineering research to effectively
9 use existing testing facilities and laboratories
10 (in existence at the time of the development of
11 the plan), upgrade facilities and equipment as
12 needed, and integrate new, innovative testing
13 approaches to the research infrastructure in a
14 systematic manner.”.

15 **SEC. 4. REPEALS.**

16 Sections 6 and 7 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduc-
17 tion Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7705 and 7705a) are re-
18 pealed.