

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2830

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration to carry out a pilot program to assess the benefits of establishing local and regional hazardous material emergency response teams in certain areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 1997

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

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration to carry out a pilot program to assess the benefits of establishing local and regional hazardous material emergency response teams in certain areas.

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. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCY RE-**
4 **SPONSE TEAMS.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Administrator of the
6 Federal Railroad Administration shall carry out a pilot
7 program to assess the benefits of establishing local and
8 regional hazardous material emergency response teams in

1 rural and isolated mountainous areas with rail corridors
2 that carry a high volume of hazardous materials.

3 (b) GRANTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program,
5 the Administrator shall make grants to provide
6 funding for 4 demonstration projects to be con-
7 ducted in areas described in subsection (a).

8 (2) USE OF GRANTS.—A grant received under
9 this subsection shall be used for establishing, train-
10 ing, and equipping regional and local hazardous ma-
11 terial emergency response teams.

12 (3) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Any public
13 or private nonprofit entity that has experience in co-
14 ordinating emergency response actions to hazardous
15 materials accidents and incidents shall be eligible to
16 receive a grant under this section.

17 (4) COMPETITIVE GRANT SELECTION.—The Ad-
18 ministrator shall conduct a national solicitation for
19 applications for grants under this section. Grantees
20 shall be selected on a competitive basis.

21 (5) APPLICATIONS.—A public or private non-
22 profit entity interested in receiving a grant under
23 this subsection shall submit an application to the
24 Administrator. The application must be submitted at
25 the time, and contain information, the Administrator

1 requires by regulation to carry out the objectives of
2 this section.

3 (6) GRANT CRITERIA.—In selecting applicants
4 for grants under this subsection, the Administrator
5 shall consider the following:

6 (A) The ability of the applicant to form ef-
7 fective partnerships between representatives of
8 the public safety community, business, and gov-
9 ernment.

10 (B) The need of the area for more ad-
11 vanced training and continuing education of
12 professionals and volunteer emergency respond-
13 ers.

14 (C) The need of the area for enhanced
15 communications between emergency responders
16 because of the remoteness of the area.

17 (D) The extent to which the applicant
18 demonstrates a comprehensive or innovative ap-
19 proach or strategy to address the needs of
20 emergency responders.

21 (E) The ability of the applicant to obtain
22 financial and other assistance from non-Federal
23 sources to supplement grant amounts received
24 under this subsection.

1 (F) The ability of the applicant to identify
2 local community needs in various areas of haz-
3 ardous materials response training.

4 (7) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Each grant recipient
5 under this section shall receive in a fiscal year $\frac{1}{4}$ of
6 the total amount appropriated to carry out this sec-
7 tion in such fiscal year.

8 (c) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2002, the
9 Administrator shall transmit to Congress a report on the
10 results of the program conducted under this section, to-
11 gether with recommendations concerning continuation and
12 expansion of the program.

13 (d) HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
14 tion, the term “hazardous material” means a substance
15 or material that the Secretary of Transportation des-
16 ignates under section 5103(a) of title 49, United States
17 Code.

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a
20 total of \$2,000,000 for fiscal years 1999 through 2001.

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