

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1197

To authorize a program of assistance to improve international building practices in eligible Latin American countries.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 19, 2001

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SESSIONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To authorize a program of assistance to improve international building practices in eligible Latin American countries.

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 “Code and Safety for
5 the Americas (CASA) Act of 2001”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Construction products and systems are im-
9 ported and used in El Salvador and Ecuador without

1 proper international evaluation, not ensuring the
2 quality of these products and systems.

3 (2) Safety issues exist with respect to building
4 construction in El Salvador and Ecuador when nat-
5 ural disasters occur such as hurricanes, floods,
6 earthquakes, and fires.

7 (3) There is a need in El Salvador, Ecuador,
8 and other Latin American countries for a complete,
9 updated family of codes that covers all elements of
10 building and housing, including zoning, egress, fire
11 protection, plumbing, electrical installation, mechani-
12 cal installation, structural engineering, seismic de-
13 sign, and fire resistive engineering.

14 (4) The educational system in Latin America
15 does not offer quality short courses for the labor
16 force in building codes.

17 (5) The United States sends vast amounts of
18 assistance to foreign countries to rebuild in the wake
19 of natural disasters.

20 (6) If proper building codes are followed in the
21 construction of buildings in Latin America, buildings
22 will be safer, and, therefore, the need for United
23 States' disaster assistance in the wake of disasters
24 will be less.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized,
3 under such terms and conditions as the President may de-
4 termine, to carry out a program of assistance under chap-
5 ter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
6 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.; relating to development assistance)
7 to improve international building construction practices in
8 Latin American countries.

9 (b) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.—Assistance under the
10 program shall be in the form of grants to support the fol-
11 lowing activities:

12 (1) TRAINING.—The training of selected profes-
13 sionals in the public and private sectors in eligible
14 Latin American countries in the ICC International
15 Code.

16 (2) TRANSLATION.—The translation into Span-
17 ish, and publication of, the following international
18 building codes:

- 19 (A) The International Building Code.
- 20 (B) The International Residential Code.
- 21 (C) The International Fire Code.
- 22 (D) The International Plumbing Code.
- 23 (E) The International Mechanical Code.
- 24 (F) The International Fuel Gas Code.
- 25 (G) The International Energy Conserva-
26 tion Code.

1 (H) The International Property Maintenance Code.
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3 (I) The International Private Sewage Dis-
4 posal Code.

5 (J) The International Zoning Code.

(K) The International Code Council Electrical Code.

8 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The program shall be car-
9 ried out through the International Code Council.

10 (d) ELIGIBLE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES DE-
11 FINED.—In this section, the term “eligible Latin Amer-
12 ican countries” means Ecuador, El Salvador, and such
13 other Latin American countries as the President may des-
14 ignate.

15 SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—

1 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
2 priated pursuant to subsection (a) are authorized to re-
3 main available until expended.

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