

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2250

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and implement the READICall emergency alert system.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. REYES, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Select Committee on Homeland Security, 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 amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and implement the READICall emergency alert system.

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. READICALL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security  
5       Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.)  
6       is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 510. READICALL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM.**

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as is practicable, but not  
3 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this  
4 section, the Secretary, working in coordination with appro-  
5 priate Federal agencies, State, and local domestic security  
6 agencies, and national private sector networks and infra-  
7 structure, shall develop and implement an emergency tele-  
8 phonic alert notification system which shall be known as  
9 the Responsive Emergency Alert and Dissemination of In-  
10 formation Call System or READICall System.

11       “(b) FUNCTIONS.—The System shall be designed—

12               “(1) to alert persons in the United States of  
13 imminent or current hazardous events caused by  
14 acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters; and

15               “(2) to provide information to individuals re-  
16 garding appropriate measures that may be under-  
17 taken to alleviate or minimize threats to their safety  
18 and welfare posed by such events.

19       “(c) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.—In im-  
20 plementing this section, the Secretary shall—

21               “(1) to the maximum extent possible, make use  
22 of national private sector networks, technology, per-  
23 sonnel, and infrastructure to develop and implement  
24 the System;

25               “(2) develop coordinated infrastructure for the  
26 System, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary

1 of Commerce for Communications and Information,  
2 the national teleservices industry, and other Federal,  
3 State, and local governmental agencies as may be  
4 necessary, that—

5 “(A) uses the full range of available  
6 telecommunications technology; and

7 “(B) will be able to—

8 “(i) provide immediate notification  
9 and warning upon approval by the Sec-  
10 retary, via telephone to all telephone sub-  
11 scribers within the United States and its  
12 territories in the event of an emergent na-  
13 tional crisis resulting from a terrorist act  
14 or acts;

15 “(ii) target specific regions, commu-  
16 nities, neighborhoods, or locations of emer-  
17 gent local crises and provide notification  
18 and warning to just the affected areas if  
19 appropriate;

20 “(iii) to the extent possible, provide  
21 for a distinct ring so that telephone sub-  
22 scribers are immediately aware of the  
23 emergency nature of the call; and

24 “(iv) disseminate necessary informa-  
25 tion to a telephone subscriber related to

1 the emergency situation and appropriate  
2 courses of action to take; and

3 “(3) in developing the System, undertake a col-  
4 laborative effort between the Department and other  
5 Federal agencies, State, and local domestic security  
6 agencies, and organizations of first responders, so  
7 that—

8 “(A) the System will allow for necessary  
9 interoperability between different sources of ter-  
10 rorist threat information;

11 “(B) the System will allow for the imme-  
12 diate dissemination of information both laterally  
13 and horizontally, such that information can be  
14 provided from all levels of governmental  
15 sources; and

16 “(C) appropriate standards, protocols, pro-  
17 cedures, and terminology are determined to  
18 minimize inconsistencies and miscommunication  
19 with intelligence information, including appro-  
20 priate definitions for situations that would con-  
21 stitute a threat for which the System would be  
22 used.

23 “(d) AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may conduct re-  
24 search and pilot programs as may be necessary to deter-  
25 mine and improve the effectiveness of the System.

1       “(e) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall  
2 submit a report to the Congress on the status of the Sys-  
3 tem—

4               “(1) by not later than 6 months after the date  
5 of enactment of this Act; and

6               “(2) yearly thereafter.

7       “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8               “(1) SYSTEM.—The term ‘System’ means the  
9 Responsive Emergency Alert and Dissemination of  
10 Information Call System or READICall System es-  
11 tablished under this section.

12              “(2) TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBER.—The term  
13 ‘telephone subscriber’ means any residents of the  
14 United States (including territories of the United  
15 States) who receives telephone service via a tradi-  
16 tional residential telephone, business telephone, or  
17 wireless telephone.”.

18       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
19 in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after  
20 the item relating to section 509 the following:

“Sec. 510. READICall emergency alert system.”.

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