

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4810

To require that 50 percent of the amounts provided under certain grants provided by the Department of Homeland Security for first responders shall be distributed directly to local entities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary, 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 require that 50 percent of the amounts provided under certain grants provided by the Department of Homeland Security for first responders shall be distributed directly to local entities, 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 “Direct Funding for  
5 First Responders Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISTRIBUTION OF 50 PERCENT OF GRANT FUNDS**  
2 **TO LOCAL ENTITIES.**

3 (a) DIRECT DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL ENTITIES.—  
4 Fifty percent of the amounts provided under a grant to  
5 which this section applies shall be distributed directly to  
6 local entities (including local governments and first re-  
7 sponders).

8 (b) ALLOCATION.—The funds distributed directly to  
9 local entities under subsection (a) shall be allocated among  
10 and by such entities in the manner proposed in the ap-  
11 proved application for the grant.

12 **SEC. 3. COVERED GRANTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 applies to any grant  
14 provided by the Department of Homeland Security to  
15 States or regions to improve the ability of first responders  
16 to prevent, prepare for, respond to, or mitigate threatened  
17 or actual terrorist attacks, especially those involving weap-  
18 ons of mass destruction, and including any grant under  
19 the following:

20 (1) STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PRO-  
21 GRAM.—The State Homeland Security Grant Pro-  
22 gram of the Department, or any successor to such  
23 grant program.

24 (2) URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE.—The  
25 Urban Area Security Initiative of the Department,  
26 or any successor to such grant program.

1 (b) EXCLUDED PROGRAMS.—Section 2 does not  
2 apply to or otherwise affect the following Federal grant  
3 programs or any grant under such a program:

4 (1) NONDEPARTMENT PROGRAMS.—Any Fed-  
5 eral grant program that is not administered by the  
6 Department of Homeland Security.

7 (2) FIRE GRANT PROGRAMS.—The fire grant  
8 programs authorized by sections 33 and 34 of the  
9 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
10 (15 U.S.C. 2229, 2229a).

11 (3) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND  
12 ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT GRANTS.—The Emergency  
13 Management Performance Grant program and the  
14 Urban Search and Rescue Grants program author-  
15 ized by title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster  
16 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
17 5195 et seq.); the Departments of Veterans Affairs  
18 and Housing and Urban Development, and Inde-  
19 pendent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (113  
20 Stat. 1047 et seq.); and the Earthquake Hazards  
21 Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.).

22 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) REGION.—The term “region” means—

1           (A) any geographic area consisting of all  
2           or parts of 2 or more contiguous States, coun-  
3           ties, municipalities, or other local governments  
4           that have a combined population of at least  
5           1,650,000 or have an area of not less than  
6           20,000 square miles, and that, for purposes of  
7           an application for a covered grant, is rep-  
8           resented by 1 or more governments or govern-  
9           mental agencies within such geographic area,  
10          and that is established by law or by agreement  
11          of 2 or more such governments or governmental  
12          agencies in a mutual aid agreement; or

13          (B) any other combination of contiguous  
14          local government units (including such a com-  
15          bination established by law or agreement of two  
16          or more governments or governmental agencies  
17          in a mutual aid agreement) that is formally cer-  
18          tified by the Secretary as a region for purposes  
19          of this Act with the consent of—

20               (i) the State or States in which they  
21               are located, including a multi-State entity  
22               established by a compact between two or  
23               more States; and

1 (ii) the incorporated municipalities,  
2 counties, and parishes which they encom-  
3 pass.

4 (2) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.—The  
5 term “emergency response providers” includes Fed-  
6 eral, State, and local emergency public safety, law  
7 enforcement, emergency response, emergency med-  
8 ical (including hospital emergency facilities), and re-  
9 lated personnel, agencies, and authorities.

10 (3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “local  
11 government” means—(A) a county, municipality,  
12 city, town, township, local public authority, school  
13 district, special district, intrastate district, council of  
14 governments (regardless of whether the council of  
15 governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corpora-  
16 tion under State law), regional or interstate govern-  
17 ment entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local  
18 government; (B) an Indian tribe or authorized tribal  
19 organization, or in Alaska a Native village or Alaska  
20 Regional Native Corporation; and (C) a rural com-  
21 munity, unincorporated town or village, or other  
22 public entity.

23 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means any  
24 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
25 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-

1       lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth  
2       of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession  
3       of the United States.

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