

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2171

To establish a first responder and terrorism preparedness grant information hotline, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2004

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish a first responder and terrorism preparedness grant information hotline, 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 “First Responders  
5       Homeland Defense Act of 2004”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

8               (1) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “local  
9       government” has the meaning given that term under

1 section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6  
2 U.S.C. 101(10)).

3 (2) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
4 “non-profit organization” means an organization de-  
5 scribed under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-  
6 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under  
7 section 501(a) of such Code.

8 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

10 **SEC. 3. GRANT INFORMATION HOTLINE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
12 toll-free hotline through which local governments and non-  
13 profit organizations may obtain information regarding all  
14 Federal grant programs that make funds available for the  
15 assistance of first responders and for terrorism prepared-  
16 ness.

17 (b) INFORMATION.—The information available  
18 through the hotline established under subsection (a) shall  
19 include the types of grants available, application proce-  
20 dures, and such other information as the Secretary deter-  
21 mines necessary.

22 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
23 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
24 essary to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 4. FIRST RESPONDER GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to  
3 make grants, on a competitive basis, to non-profit organi-  
4 zations eligible under subsection (c), for the purpose of  
5 training and equipping first responders.

6 (b) APPLICATION.—A non-profit organization may  
7 apply for a grant under subsection (a) by submitting an  
8 application to the Secretary, in such form and containing  
9 such information as prescribed by the Secretary.

10 (c) ELIGIBLE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Non-  
11 profit organizations that operate training programs for  
12 first responders in conjunction with a local agency shall  
13 be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a).

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15 are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 in each of  
16 fiscal years 2005 through 2009, to carry out this section.

17 **SEC. 5. COMMUNICATION SYSTEM GRANTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to  
19 make grants, on a competitive basis, to States, local gov-  
20 ernments, local law enforcement agencies, and local fire  
21 departments to assist in—

22 (1) improving communication systems to allow  
23 for real-time, interoperable communication between  
24 State and local first responders; or

- 1           (2) the purchase of communication systems that
- 2       allow for real-time, interoperable communication be-
- 3       tween such State and local first responders.

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