

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2239

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2004

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

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.

4 (b) APPLICATION.—Any State, local government,
5 local law enforcement agency, or local fire department that
6 desires to receive a grant under subsection (a) shall sub-
7 mit an application to the Secretary, in such form and con-
8 taining such information as prescribed by the Secretary.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated \$300,000,000 in each
11 of fiscal years 2005 through 2009, to carry out this sec-
12 tion.

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