

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3999

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish the National
Emergency Family Locator System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish
the National Emergency Family Locator 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Emergency
5 Family Locator Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
2 means the Department of Homeland Security.

3 (2) EMERGENCY.—The term “emergency” has
4 the meaning given the term in section 102 of the
5 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
6 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

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

9 (4) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the
10 National Emergency Family Locator System estab-
11 lished under section 3(a).

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL EMERGENCY FAMILY LOCATOR SYSTEM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish
15 within the Department the National Family Locator Sys-
16 tem.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the System are—

18 (1) to enable individuals displaced by an emer-
19 gency to provide to the Department the name and
20 location of the displaced individuals and any other
21 relevant information using the telephone, the Inter-
22 net, and other means determined to be appropriate
23 by the Secretary; and

24 (2) to enable the Department—

1 (A) to compile the information collected
2 under paragraph (1); and

3 (B) to provide the information collected
4 and compiled under the System to the family
5 members of the displaced individuals and law
6 enforcement officials.

7 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the System
8 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into account
9 and, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate into
10 the System—

11 (1) intermediary-based locator systems such as
12 the National Next of Kin Registry; and

13 (2) information from existing family locator
14 databases, such as the Family News Network of the
15 International Committee of the Red Cross.

16 **SEC. 4. FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLAN PUBLIC OUTREACH**
17 **PROGRAM.**

18 The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of
19 Education, shall conduct a public outreach program
20 through public school districts to educate families on how
21 to create a family preparedness plan for actions to take
22 in the event of a disaster in which family members are
23 separated.

○