

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5265

To provide grants to certain areas to prepare for a tsunami.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To provide grants to certain areas to prepare for a tsunami.

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 “Community Hazard  
5       Assessment and Mitigation Program Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The earthquake and resulting tsunami of  
9       December 26, 2004, resulted in the deaths of over  
10       230,000 people in Southeast Asia.

11              (2) The geological fault line along which the  
12       December 26th tsunami occurred is mirrored by a

1        fault line that runs along the whole of the west coast  
2        of the United States.

3            (3) Scientists predict that there is a 10 to 15  
4        percent chance of a major seismic event along this  
5        fault line, the Cascadia Subduction Zone, occurring  
6        in the next 50 years.

7            (4) Such an event would probably include both  
8        a large-scale earthquake and a tsunami, causing in-  
9        credible damage to both infrastructure and emer-  
10       gency response services.

11           (5) Numerous false alarms in the past year  
12        have demonstrated that many coastal communities  
13        are not prepared if such a geological event takes  
14        place.

15    **SEC. 3. PURPOSE AND GOALS.**

16           (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Community Haz-  
17        ard Assessment and Mitigation Program (CHAMP) is to  
18        award one-year grants directly to emergency management  
19        departments to build and maintain infrastructure to warn  
20        people of an approaching tsunami and to address post-  
21        tsunami needs.

22           (b) GOALS.—The primary goal of this Act is to pro-  
23        vide assistance to meet the needs of emergency manage-  
24        ment departments regarding tsunami hazard prepared-  
25        ness, mitigation, and response. In part, the program seeks

1 to support departments that lack the tools and resources  
2 necessary to protect the health and safety of the public  
3 and emergency response personnel with respect to a tsu-  
4 nami and its aftermath. In addition, any improvement in  
5 warning systems for the coastal communities will improve  
6 all hazard capabilities.

7 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of  
9 Homeland Security, acting through the Director of the  
10 Federal Emergency Management Administration, may  
11 provide grants in accordance with this Act to certain areas  
12 to prepare for a tsunami.

13 (b) PRIORITY.—The Director shall give priority to  
14 areas in which the likelihood of a tsunami striking in the  
15 next 50 years is 10 percent or greater.

16 (c) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—In addition to the pri-  
17 ority given pursuant to subsection (b), the Director shall  
18 award a grant under this Act to emergency management  
19 departments on a competitive basis considering financial  
20 need, benefit to the community and a demonstrated ability  
21 to cooperate with other providers of emergency services.

22 **SEC. 5. USE OF FUNDS.**

23 An emergency management department that receives  
24 a grant under this Act may use grant funds—

(1) to establish or improve warning systems, including the purchase of—

(A) sirens;

(B) individual weather radios;

(C) public safety agency communications gear; and

(D) reverse 911 systems;

(2) to purchase public safety agency rescue equipment;

(3) to reinforce buildings and facilities in maintaining continuity of critical services, including—

(A) police stations;

(B) fire stations;

(C) emergency management facilities;

(D) hospitals;

(E) shelters; and

(F) endangered sewer sanitation systems;

(4) post-tsunami shelters and supplies; and

(5) to develop outreach programs to educate both residents and tourists of different types of tsunami (near shore and far field) and how to react to each type.

**SEC. 6. MATCHING FUNDS.**

(a) POPULATION OF MORE THAN 50,000.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this Act, an emergency man-

1   agement department serving an area with a population  
2   over 50,000 shall provide, with non-Federal funds, 20 per-  
3   cent of the total cost of a project established with a grant  
4   provided under this Act.

5       (b) POPULATION BETWEEN 20,001 AND 50,000.—To  
6   be eligible to receive a grant under this Act, an emergency  
7   management department serving an area with a popu-  
8   lation between 20,001 and 50,000 shall provide, with non-  
9   Federal funds, 10 percent of the total cost of a project  
10  established with a grant provided under this Act.

11       (c) POPULATION UNDER 20,000.—To be eligible to  
12  receive a grant under this Act, an emergency management  
13  department serving an area with a population under  
14  20,000 shall provide, with non-Federal funds, 5 percent  
15  of the total cost of a project established with a grant pro-  
16  vided under this Act.

17       (d) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—In determining the  
18  non-Federal share of the total costs of a project, the Sec-  
19  retary shall consider in-kind contributions of an emer-  
20  gency management department, not to exceed 50 percent  
21  of the amount that the department contributes in non-  
22  Federal funds.

23   **SEC. 7. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

24       (a) EVALUATION.—Not later than 180 days after  
25  grants are awarded under this Act, the Director shall de-

1 termine if emergency management departments that re-  
2 ceived a grant under this section meet the standards for  
3 certification by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
4 ministration as being tsunami ready and evaluate the ef-  
5 fectiveness and tsunami readiness of programs established  
6 pursuant to this Act.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the eval-  
8 uation is completed under subsection (a), the Director  
9 shall report such findings to the appropriate Committees  
10 of Congress.

11 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

12 (a) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Di-  
13 rector of the Federal Emergency Management Adminis-  
14 tration.

15 (b) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT.—The  
16 term “emergency management department” means an  
17 agency or organization that is part of, or has a formally  
18 recognized arrangement with, a State, territory, local, or  
19 tribal authority (city, county, parish, fire district, town-  
20 ship, town, or other governing body) and is responsible  
21 for planning, preparing, and providing for the prevention,  
22 mitigation, and management of emergencies or disasters  
23 that present a threat to the lives and property of the citi-  
24 zens and visitors of the community.

1       (c) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the 50  
2 States and the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth  
3 of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin  
4 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico.

5 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
7 priated \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007  
8 through 2012 to the Secretary of the Department of  
9 Homeland Security to carry out the activities of this Com-  
10 munity hazard Assessment and Mitigation Program.

11       (b) RESERVATION.—From the amount made avail-  
12 able to carry out this Act, the Director may reserve 5 per-  
13 cent for administrative costs.

14       (c) AVAILABILITY.—Such funds shall remain avail-  
15 able until expended.

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