

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 890

To provide for the establishment of national and global tsunami warning systems and to provide assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami and for the reconstruction of tsunami-affected countries.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. PALLONE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Resources and Science, 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 provide for the establishment of national and global tsunami warning systems and to provide assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami and for the reconstruction of tsunami-affected countries.

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 “Tsunami Early Warn-  
5       ing and Relief Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) A tremendous undersea earthquake near  
4 Sumatra, Indonesia, created a tsunami whose devas-  
5 tation spread throughout South Asia, Southeast  
6 Asia, and East Africa, leading to the death of more  
7 than 160,000 people on December 26, 2004. As of  
8 February 4, 2005, more than 140,000 people are  
9 still missing. The tsunami-affected countries include  
10 Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Maldives,  
11 Seychelles, Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Somalia,  
12 Kenya, and Tanzania.

13 (2) The tsunami resulted in massive destruction  
14 affecting millions of people who now require a great  
15 amount of short-term survival assistance and long-  
16 term rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance.

17 (3) Compared to past disasters, the Indian  
18 Ocean earthquake and tsunami led to historic de-  
19 struction of the social service infrastructure, busi-  
20 nesses, and livelihoods. The devastation caused by  
21 the tsunami has resulted in many separated families  
22 and countless unaccompanied and orphaned chil-  
23 dren.

24 (4) An effective global tsunami warning system  
25 is critical for preventing future humanitarian disas-  
26 ters and for protecting national security, since

1        tsunamis occurring anywhere around the globe could  
2        impact the United States at home and United States  
3        national interests abroad.

4            (5) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
5        ministration has already built a system of tsunami  
6        buoys in the Pacific Ocean which has been proven to  
7        provide critical information and enhance the Na-  
8        tion's response to tsunamis. The National Oceanic  
9        and Atmospheric Administration has the technical  
10       capability to upgrade and expand this system so that  
11       it covers the entire globe and is integrated into larg-  
12       er ocean observing efforts.

13           (6) Consistent funding and international co-  
14        operation would be needed to deploy a broader global  
15        tsunami warning system.

16           (7) Effective local emergency management ca-  
17        pabilities are needed to relay tsunami warning infor-  
18        mation to coastal communities and their residents.

## 19        **TITLE I—TSUNAMI WARNING** 20        **SYSTEMS**

### 21        **SEC. 101. GLOBAL PROGRAM.**

22           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce  
23        shall establish a Global Tsunami Disaster Reduction Pro-  
24        gram within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
25        ministration for the establishment of a tsunami warning

1 system to protect vulnerable areas around the world, in-  
2 cluding Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, In-  
3 dian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, and European areas.

4 (b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—The Secretary  
5 of State, in consultation with the Director of the National  
6 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall work with  
7 foreign countries that would benefit from the warning sys-  
8 tem described in subsection (a), and through international  
9 organizations, for the purposes of—

- 10 (1) sharing costs;
- 11 (2) sharing relevant data;
- 12 (3) sharing technical advice for the implementa-  
13 tion of dissemination and evacuation plans; and
- 14 (4) ensuring that the Global Earth Observation  
15 System of Systems program has access to and  
16 shares openly all relevant information worldwide.

17 **SEC. 102. EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES TSUNAMI READY**  
18 **PROGRAM.**

19 The Director of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
20 pheric Administration shall work with coastal communities  
21 throughout the United States to build upon local coastal  
22 and ocean observing capabilities, improve abilities to dis-  
23 seminate tsunami information and prepare evacuation  
24 plans according to the requirements of the Tsunami Ready  
25 program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-

1 istration, and encourage more communities to participate  
2 in the program.

3 **SEC. 103. SEISMIC ACTIVITY MONITORING.**

4       The Director of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
5 pheric Administration shall coordinate with the United  
6 States Geological Survey and the Department of State to  
7 work with other countries to enhance the monitoring,  
8 through the Global Seismic Network (GSN), of seismic ac-  
9 tivities that could lead to tsunamis, to support the pro-  
10 grams described in sections 101 and 102.

11 **SEC. 104. ANNUAL REPORT.**

12       The Director of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
13 pheric Administration shall transmit an annual report to  
14 Congress on progress in carrying out this title.

15 **SEC. 105. DEFINITION.**

16       For purposes of this title, the term “United States”  
17 means the several States, the District of Columbia, the  
18 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin  
19 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana  
20 Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or posses-  
21 sion of the United States.

22 **SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23       There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
24 retary of Commerce for carrying out this title—

25               (1) \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 2006; and

1           (2) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 and for  
2           each subsequent fiscal year.

3   **TITLE II—RELIEF, REHABILITA-**  
4   **TION, AND RECONSTRUCTION**  
5   **ASSISTANCE RELATING TO IN-**  
6   **DIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI**

7   **SEC. 201. ASSISTANCE.**

8           (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President, acting through  
9   the Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
10   national Development, is authorized to provide assistance  
11   for—

12           (1) the relief and rehabilitation of individuals  
13   who are victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami; and

14           (2) the reconstruction of the infrastructures of  
15   countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami, in-  
16   cluding Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand,  
17   Maldives, Seychelles, Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia,  
18   Somalia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

19           (b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Assistance under this  
20   section may be provided on such terms and conditions as  
21   the President may determine.

22   **SEC. 202. REPORT.**

23           The President shall transmit to Congress, on a quar-  
24   terly basis in 2005, on a biannual basis in 2006, and as

1 determined to be appropriate by the President thereafter,  
2 a report on progress in carrying out this title.

3 **SEC. 203. DEFINITION.**

4 In this title, the term “Indian Ocean tsunami” means  
5 the tsunami that resulted from the earthquake that oc-  
6 curred off the west coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia,  
7 on December 26, 2004.

8 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Presi-  
10 dent to carry out this title such sums as may be necessary  
11 for fiscal year 2006 and each subsequent fiscal year.

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