

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1612

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish certain qualifications for the office of the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

Mr. NELSON of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish certain qualifications for the office of the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response.

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 “Under Secretary for
5 Emergency Preparedness and Response Qualifications Act
6 of 2005”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
2 cy has the lead Federal responsibility to help the
3 United States prepare for and recover from signifi-
4 cant catastrophes, including catastrophes resulting
5 from terrorist attacks;

6 (2) the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
7 cy provides planning and preparedness aid to State
8 and local governments and coordinates Federal
9 emergency management activities and planning for
10 the continuity of the Federal Government in cases in
11 which national security is threatened;

12 (3) the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
13 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) transferred the Federal Emer-
14 gency Management Agency, including the assets and
15 responsibilities of that agency, to the Department of
16 Homeland Security; and

17 (4) for the most part, as of the date of enact-
18 ment of this Act, the mission of the Federal Emer-
19 gency Management Agency is carried out within the
20 Emergency Preparedness and Response branch of
21 the Department of Homeland Security.

22 **SEC. 3. QUALIFICATIONS.**

23 Section 103 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
24 (6 U.S.C. 113) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (5)
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(5) In accordance with subsection (f), an
4 Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and
5 Response.”;

6 (2) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
7 section (g); and

8 (3) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(f) UNDER SECRETARY FOR EMERGENCY PRE-
11 PAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.—In appointing an Under
12 Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response
13 under subsection (a)(5), the President shall select an indi-
14 vidual that, as determined by the President, has broad
15 background, professional knowledge, and substantial expe-
16 rience in emergency training, planning, and preparedness,
17 including work experience relating to emergency prepared-
18 ness, at least 4 years of which shall be experience relating
19 to the management of emergency personnel or assets.”.

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