

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 863

To improve communications interoperability for emergency response.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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 improve communications interoperability for emergency 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 “Improving Commu-  
5       nications Interoperability Grant Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RE-**  
2 **SPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title V of the Homeland Se-  
4 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by  
5 adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 522. IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY**  
7 **RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting  
9 through the Director of the Office of Grants and Training  
10 and in coordination with the Director for Emergency Com-  
11 munications, shall establish the Improve Communications  
12 for Emergency Response Grant Program to make grants  
13 to States and regions to carry out initiatives to improve  
14 interoperable emergency communications for first re-  
15 sponders for domestic preparedness and the collective re-  
16 sponse to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other  
17 man-made disasters, including initiatives to achieve solu-  
18 tions to statewide, regional, national, and, where appro-  
19 priate, international interoperability.

20 “(b) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A State or region re-  
21 ceiving a grant under this section may use the grant for  
22 short-term or long-term goals for improving interoperable  
23 emergency communications, including interoperability  
24 within that State or region, and to assist with—

25 “(1) statewide or regional communications  
26 planning;

1           “(2) design and engineering for interoperable  
2           emergency communications systems;

3           “(3) procurement and installation of interoper-  
4           able emergency communications equipment;

5           “(4) interoperable emergency communications  
6           exercises;

7           “(5) modeling and simulation exercises for  
8           operational command and control functions;

9           “(6) technical assistance and training for inter-  
10          operable emergency communications; and

11          “(7) other activities determined by the Sec-  
12          retary to be integral to interoperable emergency  
13          communications.

14          “(c) REGION DEFINED.—For the purposes of this  
15          section, the term ‘region’ means any combination of con-  
16          tiguous local government units, including such a combina-  
17          tion established by law or mutual aid agreement between  
18          two or more local governments or governmental agen-  
19          cies.”.

20          (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
21          authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Home-  
22          land Security for grants under section 522 of the Home-  
23          land Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a)—

24                  (1) such sums as may be necessary for the first  
25          fiscal year that begins after the later of—

1 (A) the date on which the Secretary of  
2 Homeland Security completes and submits to  
3 Congress the National Emergency Communica-  
4 tions Plan required under section 1802 of the  
5 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 572);

6 (B) the date on which the Secretary of  
7 Homeland Security completes and submits to  
8 Congress the first baseline interoperability as-  
9 sessment required under section 1803 of such  
10 Act (6 U.S.C. 573); or

11 (C) the date on which the Secretary of  
12 Homeland Security, after consultation with the  
13 Director of Emergency Communications, deter-  
14 mines and notifies Congress that substantial  
15 progress has been made towards the develop-  
16 ment and promulgation of voluntary consensus-  
17 based interoperable communications standards  
18 pursuant to section 1801(c)(11) of such Act (6  
19 U.S.C. 571(c)(11)); and

20 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each  
21 subsequent fiscal year.

22 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
23 in section 1(b) of that Act is amended by inserting after  
24 the item relating to section 521 the following:

“Sec. 522. Improve Communications for Emergency Response Grant Program.”.

