

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2850

To assist States and local governments develop and implement emergency notification systems suitable for use on public recreational lands, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON (for herself and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 assist States and local governments develop and implement emergency notification systems suitable for use on public recreational lands, and for other purposes.

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 “Communication and  
5       Alert Maintenance Program for Early Response Act” or  
6       “CAMPER Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The National Park System manages 392  
4 sites that cover more than 83 million acres.

5 (2) According to the National Park Service,  
6 there were 275,581,547 recreational visits to Na-  
7 tional Park System sites in 2007, which marks an  
8 increase of nearly 3 million visits from 2006.

9 (3) The number of recreational visits specified  
10 in paragraph (2) does not include Forest Service,  
11 Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclama-  
12 tion, or Army Corps of Engineer sites or include  
13 State and local parks, which also cover a significant  
14 land area.

15 (4) For example, in California, over 79.5 mil-  
16 lion people visited California State Parks, over 1.3  
17 million acres of land, in the 2007/2008 fiscal year.

18 (5) Many State and local park systems, includ-  
19 ing the California Department of Parks and Recre-  
20 ation, have no emergency notification system suit-  
21 able for use on public recreational lands to warn  
22 persons using such lands of imminent emergency sit-  
23 uations.

1 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ASSIST-**  
2 **ANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMEN-**  
3 **TATION OF EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYS-**  
4 **TEMS FOR USE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOV-**  
5 **ERNMENT RECREATIONAL LANDS.**

6 (a) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.**—The  
7 Secretary of Homeland Security may provide technical as-  
8 sistance to a State or local government to develop and im-  
9 plement an emergency notification system suitable for use  
10 on public recreational lands administered by the State or  
11 local government to warn persons using such lands of  
12 emergency situations, including natural disasters and acts  
13 of terrorism or other man-made disasters.

14 (b) **IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.**—

15 (1) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of  
16 Homeland Security may make grants, on a competi-  
17 tive basis, to States and local governments to pro-  
18 cure and install emergency notification systems on  
19 public recreational lands, as described in subsection  
20 (a).

21 (2) **MAXIMUM GRANT.**—A grant under this sub-  
22 section may not exceed \$100,000.

23 (3) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.**—

24 (A) **RECIPIENT SHARE.**—A grant recipient  
25 shall provide matching non-Federal funds, ei-  
26 ther in cash or in-kind support, in an amount

1 equal to not less than five percent of the Fed-  
2 eral funds provided in a grant under this sub-  
3 section.

4 (B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may estab-  
5 lish conditions under which the cost-sharing re-  
6 quirements of subparagraph (A) may be re-  
7 duced or waived.

8 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—For each fiscal year  
9 in which technical assistance and grants are provided  
10 under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security  
11 shall submit to the Committees on Homeland Security of  
12 the House of Representatives and the Senate a report—

13 (1) describing the present state of preparedness  
14 of State park and recreation departments to provide  
15 adequate emergency notification in the event of  
16 emergency situations, including natural disasters  
17 and acts of terrorism or other man-made disasters;  
18 and

19 (2) containing such recommendations for addi-  
20 tional legislative action as the Secretary considers  
21 appropriate.

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