

infrequently in any one nation, international cooperation is desirable for mutual learning from limited experiences.

(11) An effective Federal program in earthquake hazards reduction will require input from and review by persons outside the Federal Government expert in the sciences of earthquake hazards reduction and in the practical application of earthquake hazards reduction measures.

(12) The built environment has generally been constructed and maintained to meet the needs of the users under normal conditions. When earthquakes occur, the built environment is generally designed to prevent severe injuries or loss of human life and is not expected to remain operational or able to recover under any specified schedule.

(13) The National Research Council published a study on reducing hazards and risks associated with earthquakes based on the goals and objectives for achieving national earthquake resilience described in the strategic plan entitled "Strategic Plan for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program". The study and an accompanying report called for work in 18 tasks focused on research, preparedness, and mitigation and annual funding of approximately \$300,000,000 per year for 20 years.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 2, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1098; Pub. L. 101-614, § 2, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3231; Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(a), Dec. 11, 2018, 132 Stat. 4408.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Par. (1). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(a)(1), inserted “, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,” after “States”, “Oregon,” after “New York,”, and “Tennessee,” after “South Carolina”.

Par. (2)(C). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(a)(2), struck out “prediction techniques and” before “early-warning systems.”

Par. (4). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(a)(3), added par. (4) and struck out former par. (4) which read as follows: “A well-funded seismological research program in earthquake prediction could provide data adequate for the design, of an operational system that could predict accurately the time, place, magnitude, and physical effects of earthquakes in selected areas of the United States.”

Pars. (6), (7). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(a)(4), substituted “lifeline infrastructure” for “lifelines” wherever appearing.

Pars. (12), (13). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(a)(5), added pars. (12) and (13).

1990—Pars. (5) to (11). Pub. L. 101-614 added pars. (5) to (7), struck out former pars. (5) and (6), and redesignated former pars. (7) to (10) as (8) to (11), respectively. Prior to amendment, pars. (5) and (6) read as follows:

“(5) An operational earthquake prediction system can produce significant social, economic, legal, and political consequences.

“(6) There is a scientific basis for hypothesizing that major earthquakes may be moderated, in at least some seismic areas, by application of the findings of earthquake control and seismological research.”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115-307, § 1, Dec. 11, 2018, 132 Stat. 4408, provided that: “This Act [amending this section and sec-

tions 7702 to 7704, 7705b, 7705c, and 7705e to 7707 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 7704 of this title] may be cited as the ‘National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2018’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-360, title I, § 101, Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1668, provided that: “This title [amending sections 7703, 7704, and 7706 to 7708 of this title] may be cited as the ‘National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2004’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-503, title II, § 201, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2304, provided that: “This title [enacting sections 7707 to 7709 of this title, amending sections 7703, 7704, and 7706 of this title, repealing section 7705d of this title, enacting provisions set out as a note under this section, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 7704 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-614, § 1, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3231, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 7705a to 7705e, amending this section and sections 7702 to 7705, and 7706 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 7704, 7705b, and 7705e of this title] may be cited as the ‘National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act’.”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 95-124, § 1, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1098, provided: “That this Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977’.”

REPORT ON AT-RISK POPULATIONS

Pub. L. 106-503, title II, § 207, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2307, required the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to transmit to Congress a report no later than 1 year after Nov. 13, 2000, describing the elements of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program that specifically addressed the needs of at-risk populations.

Executive Documents

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of President under Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 delegated, transferred, or reassigned to Secretary of Homeland Security pursuant to sections 1-104 and 4-204 of Ex. Ord. No. 12148, July 20, 1979, 44 F.R. 43239, as amended, set out as a note under section 5195 of this title.

§ 7702. Congressional statement of purpose

It is the purpose of the Congress in this chapter to reduce the risks of life and property from future earthquakes and increase the resilience of communities in the United States through the establishment and maintenance of an effective earthquake hazards reduction program. The objectives of such program shall include—

(1) the education of the public, including State and local officials, as to earthquake phenomena, the identification of locations and structures which are especially susceptible to earthquake damage, ways to reduce the adverse consequences of an earthquake to individuals and the communities, and related matters;

(2) the development of technologically and economically feasible design and construction methods and procedures to make new and ex-

isting structures, in areas of seismic risk, earthquake resistant, giving priority to the development of such methods and procedures for power generating plants, dams, hospitals, schools, public utilities and other lifeline infrastructure, public safety structures, high occupancy buildings, and other structures which are especially needed to facilitate community-wide post-earthquake recovery and in times of disaster;

(3) the implementation to the greatest extent practicable, in all areas of high or moderate seismic risk, of a system (including personnel, technology, and procedures) for identifying, evaluating, and accurately characterizing seismic hazards;

(4) the development, publication, and promotion, in conjunction with State and local officials and professional organizations, of model building and planning codes and other means to encourage consideration of information about seismic risk in making decisions about land-use policy and construction activity;

(5) the development, in areas of seismic risk, of improved understanding of, and capability with respect to, earthquake-related issues, including methods of mitigating the risks from earthquakes, planning to prevent such risks, disseminating warnings of earthquakes, organization emergency services, and planning for re-occupancy, recovery, reconstruction, and redevelopment after an earthquake;

(6) the development of ways to increase the use of existing scientific and engineering knowledge to mitigate earthquake hazards; and

(7) the development of ways to assure the availability of affordable earthquake insurance.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 3, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1099; Pub. L. 101-614, § 3, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3231; Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(b), (c)(1)(B), Dec. 11, 2018, 132 Stat. 4408, 4409.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(b)(1), inserted “and increase the resilience of communities” after “future earthquakes” in introductory provisions.

Par. (1). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(b)(2), inserted “to individuals and the communities” after “an earthquake”.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(b)(3), (c)(1)(B), substituted “lifeline infrastructure” for “lifelines” and “to facilitate community-wide post-earthquake recovery and in times of disaster” for “in time of disaster”.

Par. (3). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(b)(4), struck out “for predicting damaging earthquakes and” before “for identifying.”

Par. (4). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(b)(5), inserted “and planning” after “model building”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(b)(6), substituted “re-occupancy, recovery, reconstruction,” for “reconstruction”.

1990—Pub. L. 101-614 inserted sentence at end, listing objectives of program.

§ 7703. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) The term “includes” and variants thereof should be read as if the phrase “but is not limited to” were also set forth.

(2) The term “Program” means the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program established under section 7704 of this title.

(3) The term “seismic” and variants thereof mean having to do with, or caused by earthquakes.

(4) The term “State” means each of the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(5) The term “United States” means, when used in a geographical sense, all of the States as defined in paragraph (4).

(6) The term “lifeline infrastructure” means public works and utilities, including transportation facilities and infrastructure, oil and gas pipelines, electrical power and communication facilities and infrastructure, and water supply and sewage treatment facilities.

(7) The term “Program agencies” means the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(8) The term “Interagency Coordinating Committee” means the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction established under section 7704(a) of this title.

(9) The term “Advisory Committee” means the Advisory Committee established under section 7704(a)(5) of this title.

(10) The term “community resilience” means the ability of a community to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse seismic events.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 4, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1099; Pub. L. 101-614, § 4, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3232; Pub. L. 106-503, title II, § 209, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2308; Pub. L. 108-360, title I, § 102, Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1668; Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(c)(1)(A), (2), Dec. 11, 2018, 132 Stat. 4409.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Par. (6). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(c)(1)(A), substituted “lifeline infrastructure” for “lifelines”.

Par. (10). Pub. L. 115-307, § 2(c)(2), added par. (10).

2004—Pars. (8), (9). Pub. L. 108-360 added pars. (8) and (9).

2000—Par. (6). Pub. L. 106-503 inserted “and infrastructure” after “communication facilities”.

1990—Par. (2). Pub. L. 101-614, § 4(1), amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “The term ‘program’ means the earthquake hazards reduction program established under section 7704 of this title.”

Pars. (6), (7). Pub. L. 101-614, § 4(2), added pars. (6) and (7).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of all functions, personnel, assets, components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management relating thereto, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, see section 315(a)(1) of Title 6, Domestic Security.