



Legislative Bulletin.....July 11, 2002

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H.R. 2486—Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act of 2002 *(Etheridge)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 11, 2002, under an open rule.

Summary: H.R. 2486 would authorize \$1.15 million a year for five years for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Weather Research Program to improve its ability to forecast inland flooding through research and modeling. Each year, a portion of the authorized funds would go to institutions of higher education to “to develop models that can improve the ability to forecast the coastal and estuary-inland flooding that is influenced by tropical cyclones.” These models are required to “incorporate the interaction of such factors as storm surges, soil saturation, and other relevant phenomena.”

Specifically, the bill would direct the agency to:

- 1) research and model inland flooding;
- 2) create and implement a flood warning index;
- 3) train government and other personnel, including meteorologists;
- 4) use new forecasting methodologies, and conduct outreach and education for local meteorologists and the public about the dangers and risks of flooding; and
- 5) report yearly to Congress on the program’s implementation and the public’s and emergency personnel’s acceptance of the new flood index.

Potential Amendments:

Rep. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment adding:

- a requirement that long-term trends also be analyzed;
- \$100,000 a year for three years for grants to institutions of higher-education to investigate and predict long-term trends;
- require a report to Congress by January 1, 2006 on long-term trends.

Cost to Taxpayers: H.R. 2486 would authorize \$1.15 million a year for FY2003-2007 (\$5.75 million total) for grants to develop forecasting models. Of the \$1.15 million, \$250,000 a year is for “competitive merit-reviewed grants” to institutions of higher education to develop weather models. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2486 would cost \$5 million over the 2003-2007 period, subject to appropriations.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: Yes, the bill creates a new program under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's U.S. Weather Research Program, and also creates a new yearly administrative reporting requirement for this program. The U.S. Weather Research Program is currently a \$9 million a year multi-agency collaborative effort of research communities, academia, and government to study weather and implement new weather technology.

Constitutional Authority: The Science Committee (in Report 107-495) finds Constitutional Authority under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution (Powers of Congress) but does not cite a specific clause.

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H.R. 2733 — Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (Barcia)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 11th, under an open rule.

Summary: H.R. 2733 authorizes a new initiative at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to work with manufacturing industries to develop standards and an implementation process for electronic enterprise integration. Enterprise integration is defined as “the electronic linkage of manufacturers, assemblers, suppliers, and customers to enable the electronic exchange of product, manufacturing, and other business data among all partners in a product supply chain.”

The bill includes several findings citing the importance of small and medium-sized businesses in supply chains and the growing emergence of the use of international standards for product data exchange. H.R. 2733 also finds that it is in the national interest for NIST to “accelerate its efforts in helping industry develop standards and enterprise integration processes that are necessary to increase efficiency and lower costs.”

Authorized activities for the Director of NIST would include:

- Working with industry, trade associations and others to develop “roadmaps” that outline the goals, steps and timeline for a specific industry to become electronically integrated;
- Working with companies and trade associations to raise awareness of enterprise integration activities;

- Supporting the development and adoption of enterprise integration standards;
- Providing technical assistance and financial support to small and medium-sized businesses that set up enterprise integration pilot programs; and
- Ensuring that the Manufacturing Extension Program is prepared to advise small and medium-sized businesses on how to fully participate in supply chains using enterprise integration.

The bill requires the initiative to involve consortia that include government and industry and build upon the ongoing efforts of NIST and the private sector. The initiative also “shall address the enterprise integration needs of each United States major manufacturing industry at the earliest possible date.” Major manufacturing industries include the aerospace, automotive, electronics, shipbuilding, construction, home building, furniture, textile, apparel and other industries as designated by the Director.

H.R. 2733 authorizes the following sums to carry out the activities of the bill:

- \$2 million for fiscal year 2002
- \$10 million for fiscal year 2003
- \$15 million for fiscal year 2004
- \$20 million for fiscal year 2005

Additional Background: NIST is currently engaged in two projects in fiscal year 2002 related to enterprise integration, Business-to-Business Testbed Development and Enterprise Integration Roadmap.

Potential Amendments:

Jackson-Lee – Adds language to authorized activities stressing enterprise integration awareness among businesses that are owned by women, minorities or both.

Jackson-Lee – Adds a requirement that the Director of NIST conduct a study within one year of enactment on the extent of awareness and participation of women or minority-owned businesses in enterprise integration development activities. Requires an evaluation within three years of enactment on the extent activities authorized under the bill have increased enterprise integration development activities among women or minority-owned businesses.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates H.R. 2733 would cost \$47 million over the 2002-2007 period.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: Yes, the bill creates a new enterprise integration initiative at NIST.

Constitutional Authority: The Science Committee, in House Report 107-520, cites Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

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