

Calendar No. 698

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R. 2486****[Report No. 107—310]**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 12 (legislative day, JULY 10), 2002

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

OCTOBER 10, 2002

Reported by Mr. HOLLINGS, without amendment

AN ACT

To authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, through the United States Weather Research Program, to conduct research and development, training, and outreach activities relating to inland flood forecasting improvement, 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 “Inland Flood Fore-
5 casting and Warning System Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

2 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
3 tion, through the United States Weather Research Pro-
4 gram, shall—

5 (1) improve the capability to accurately forecast
6 inland flooding (including inland flooding influenced
7 by coastal and ocean storms) through research and
8 modeling;

9 (2) develop, test, and deploy a new flood warn-
10 ing index that will give the public and emergency
11 management officials fuller, clearer, and more accu-
12 rate information about the risks and dangers posed
13 by expected floods;

14 (3) train emergency management officials, Na-
15 tional Weather Service personnel, meteorologists,
16 and others as appropriate regarding improved fore-
17 casting techniques for inland flooding, risk manage-
18 ment techniques, and use of the inland flood warn-
19 ing index developed under paragraph (2);

20 (4) conduct outreach and education activities
21 for local meteorologists and the public regarding the
22 dangers and risks associated with inland flooding
23 and the use and understanding of the inland flood
24 warning index developed under paragraph (2); and

25 (5) assess, through research and analysis of
26 previous trends, among other activities—

1 (A) the long-term trends in frequency and
2 severity of inland flooding; and

3 (B) how shifts in climate, development,
4 and erosion patterns might make certain re-
5 gions vulnerable to more continual or escalating
6 flood damage in the future.

7 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-
9 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for car-
10 rying out this Act \$1,250,000 for each of the fiscal years
11 2003 through 2005, of which \$100,000 for each fiscal year
12 shall be available for competitive merit-reviewed grants to
13 institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101
14 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001))
15 to carry out the activities described in section 2(5), and
16 \$1,150,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 and 2007.
17 Of the amounts authorized under this section, \$250,000
18 for each fiscal year shall be available for competitive merit-
19 reviewed grants to institutions of higher education (as de-
20 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
21 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) to develop models that can improve the
22 ability to forecast the coastal and estuary-inland flooding
23 that is influenced by tropical cyclones. The models should
24 incorporate the interaction of such factors as storm
25 surges, soil saturation, and other relevant phenomena.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

2 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter through fiscal
4 year 2007, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
5 istration shall transmit to the Committee on Science of
6 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
7 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
8 on its activities under this Act and the success and accept-
9 ance of the inland flood warning index developed under
10 section 2(2) by the public and emergency management
11 professionals. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
12 ministration shall also, not later than January 1, 2006,
13 transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of
14 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
15 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the
16 likely long-term trends in inland flooding, the results of
17 which shall be used in outreach activities conducted under
18 section 2(4), especially to alert the public and builders to
19 flood hazards.

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