

NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2015

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 114, H.R. 23.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 23) to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

H.R. 23

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **DIRECTOR.**—Section 203(1) of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702(1)) is amended by striking “Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy” and inserting “Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology”.

(b) **LIFELINES.**—Section 203 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) **LIFELINES.**—The term ‘lifelines’ 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.”.

(c) **WINDSTORM.**—Paragraph (5) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by inserting “northeaster,” after “tropical storm.”.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 204 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, the purpose of which is to achieve major measurable reductions in the losses of life and property from windstorms through a coordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed at improving the understanding of windstorms and their impacts and developing and encouraging the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce those impacts.

“(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.**—

“(1) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall have the primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the Program. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director shall—

“(A) ensure that the Program includes the necessary components to promote the implementation of windstorm risk reduction measures by Federal, State, and local governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, and others with a role in planning and constructing buildings and lifelines;

“(B) support the development of performance-based engineering tools, and work with appropriate groups to promote the commercial application of such tools, including through wind-related model building codes, voluntary standards, and construction best practices;

“(C) request the assistance of Federal agencies other than the Program agencies, as necessary to assist in carrying out this Act;

“(D) coordinate all Federal post-windstorm investigations to the extent practicable; and

“(E) when warranted by research or investigative findings, issue recommendations to assist in informing the development of model codes, and provide information to Congress on the use of such recommendations.

“(2) **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.**—In addition to the lead agency responsibilities described under paragraph (1), the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall be responsible for carrying out research and development to improve model building codes, voluntary standards, and best practices for the design, construction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and lifelines.

“(3) **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.**—The National Science Foundation shall support research in—

“(A) engineering and the atmospheric sciences to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines; and

“(B) economic and social factors influencing windstorm risk reduction measures.

“(4) **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall support atmospheric sciences research to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines.

“(5) **FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**—The Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

“(A) support—

“(i) the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques;

“(ii) windstorm-related data collection and analysis;

“(iii) public outreach and information dissemination; and

“(iv) promotion of the adoption of windstorm preparedness and mitigation measures, including for households, businesses, and communities, consistent with the Agency’s all-hazards approach; and

“(B) work closely with national standards and model building code organizations, in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to promote the implementation of research results and promote better building practices within the building design and construction industry, including architects, engineers, contractors, builders, and inspectors.”.

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c), and by striking subsections (e) and (f); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c), as so redesignated, the following new subsections:

“(d) **BUDGET ACTIVITIES.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall each include in their agency’s annual budget request to Congress a description of their agency’s projected activities under the Program for the fiscal year covered by the budget request, along with an assessment of what they plan to spend on those activities for that fiscal year.

“(e) **INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an Interagency Coordinating Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, chaired by the Director or the Director’s designee.

“(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—In addition to the chair, the Committee shall be composed of—

“(A) the heads or such designees of—

“(i) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

“(ii) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

“(iii) the National Science Foundation;

“(iv) the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and

“(v) the Office of Management and Budget; and

“(B) the head of any other Federal agency, or such designee, the chair considers appropriate.

“(3) **MEETINGS.**—The Committee shall meet not less than once a year at the call of the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

“(4) **GENERAL PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**—The Committee shall oversee the planning and coordination of the Program.

“(5) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—The Committee shall develop and submit to Congress, not later than one year after the date of enactment of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015, a Strategic Plan for the Program that includes—

“(A) prioritized goals for the Program that will mitigate against the loss of life and property from future windstorms;

“(B) short-term, mid-term, and long-term research objectives to achieve those goals;

“(C) a description of the role of each Program agency in achieving the prioritized goals;

“(D) the methods by which progress towards the goals will be assessed; and

“(E) an explanation of how the Program will foster the transfer of research results into outcomes, such as improved model building codes.

“(6) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015, the Committee shall submit to the Congress a report on the progress of the Program that includes—

“(A) a description of the activities funded under the Program, a description of how these activities align with the prioritized goals and research objectives established in the Strategic Plan, and the budgets, per agency, for these activities;

“(B) the outcomes achieved by the Program for each of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan;

“(C) a description of any recommendations made to change existing building codes that were the result of Program activities; and

“(D) a description of the extent to which the Program has incorporated recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction.

“(7) **COORDINATED BUDGET.**—The Committee shall develop a coordinated budget for the Program, which shall be submitted to the Congress not later than 60 days after the date of the President’s budget submission for each fiscal year.”.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.

Section 205 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15704) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 205. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish an Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, which shall be composed of at least 7 and not more than 15 members who are qualified to provide advice on windstorm impact reduction and represent related scientific, architectural, and engineering disciplines, none of whom may be employees of the Federal Government, including—

“(1) representatives of research and academic institutions;

“(2) industry standards development organizations;

“(3) emergency management agencies;
 “(4) State and local government; and
 “(5) business communities, including the insurance industry.

“(b) ASSESSMENTS.—The Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction shall offer assessments and recommendations on—

“(1) trends and developments in the natural, engineering, and social sciences and practices of windstorm impact mitigation;

“(2) the priorities of the Program’s Strategic Plan;

“(3) the coordination of the Program;

“(4) the effectiveness of the Program in meeting its purposes; and

“(5) any revisions to the Program which may be necessary.

“(c) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Advisory Committee established under this section shall serve without compensation.

“(d) REPORTS.—At least every 2 years, the Advisory Committee shall report to the Director on the assessments carried out under subsection (b) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.

“(e) CHARTER.—Notwithstanding section 14(b)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the Advisory Committee shall not be required to file a charter subsequent to its initial charter, filed under section 9(c) of such Act, before the termination date specified in subsection (f) of this section.

“(f) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2017.

“(g) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—An Advisory Committee member shall recuse himself from any Advisory Committee activity in which he has an actual pecuniary interest.”.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 207 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15706) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(2) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(3) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2017.

“(b) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(2) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(3) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2017.

“(c) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(2) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(3) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2017.

“(d) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(2) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(3) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2017.”.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 23), as amended, was passed.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2015

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 149, H.R. 2499.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2499) to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Vitter amendment at the desk be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2326) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 4. BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM.

(a) SECTION 7(a) FUNDING LEVELS.—The third proviso under the heading “BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT” under the heading “SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION” under title V of division E of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235; 128 Stat. 2371) is amended by striking “\$18,750,000,000” and inserting “\$23,500,000,000”.

(b) LOAN LIMITATIONS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “No financial assistance” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—No financial assistance”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) LIQUIDITY.—On and after October 1, 2015, the Administrator may not guarantee a loan under this subsection if the lender determines that the borrower is unable to obtain credit elsewhere solely because the liquidity of the lender depends upon the guaranteed portion of the loan being sold on the secondary market.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) LENDING LIMITS OF LENDERS.—On and after October 1, 2015, the Administrator may not guarantee a loan under this subsection if the sole purpose for requesting the guarantee is to allow the lender to exceed the legal lending limit of the lender.”.

(c) REPORTING.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

(B) the term “business loan” means a loan made or guaranteed under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a));

(C) the term “cancellation” means that the Administrator approves a proposed business loan, but the prospective borrower determines not to take the business loan; and

(D) the term “net dollar amount of business loans” means the difference between the total dollar amount of business loans and the total dollar amount of cancellations.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a quarterly report regarding the loan programs carried out under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), which shall include—

(A) for the fiscal year during which the report is submitted and the 3 fiscal years before such fiscal year—

(i) the weekly total dollar amount of business loans;

(ii) the weekly total dollar amount of cancellations;

(iii) the weekly net dollar amount of business loans—

(I) for all business loans; and

(II) for each category of loan amount described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 7(a)(18) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(18));

(B) for the fiscal year during which the report is submitted—

(i) the amount of remaining authority for business loans, in dollar amount and as a percentage; and

(ii) estimates of the date on which the net dollar amount of business loans will reach the maximum for such business loans based on daily net lending volume and extrapolations based on year to date net lending volume, and quarterly growth trends;

(C) the number of early defaults (as determined by the Administrator) during the quarter covered by the report;

(D) the total amount paid by borrowers in early default during the quarter covered by the report, as of the time of purchase of the guarantee;

(E) the number of borrowers in early default that are franchisees;

(F) the total amount of guarantees purchased by the Administrator during the quarter covered by the report; and

(G) a description of the actions the Administrator is taking to combat early defaults administratively and any legislative action the Administrator recommends to address early defaults.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 2499), as amended, was passed.

DHS IT DUPLICATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2015

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1626 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1626) to reduce duplication of information technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.