

HR 1544

Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: Apr 12, 2005

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governm

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (May 12, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/1544>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Cox, Christopher [R-CA-48]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (40 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Christensen, Donna M. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Apr 12, 2005
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Davis, Tom [R-VA-11]	R · VA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Dent, Charles W. [R-PA-15]	R · PA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Dicks, Norman D. [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Etheridge, Bob [D-NC-2]	D · NC		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Gibbons, Jim [R-NV-2]	R · NV		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Harman, Jane [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Harris, Katherine [R-FL-13]	R · FL		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Jindal, Bobby [R-LA-1]	R · LA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-3]	R · NY		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Linder, John [R-GA-7]	R · GA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Lungren, Daniel E. [R-CA-3]	R · CA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Meek, Kendrick B. [D-FL-17]	D · FL		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Reichert, David G. [R-WA-8]	R · WA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Rogers, Mike D. [R-AL-3]	R · AL		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Shays, Christopher [R-CT-4]	R · CT		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Simmons, Rob [R-CT-2]	R · CT		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Souder, Mark E. [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Weldon, Curt [R-PA-7]	R · PA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Frelinghuysen, Rodney P. [R-NJ-11]	R · NJ		Apr 26, 2005
Rep. Price, Tom [R-GA-6]	R · GA		Apr 26, 2005
Rep. Berman, Howard L. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Apr 28, 2005
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Apr 28, 2005
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Apr 28, 2005
Rep. Owens, Major R. [D-NY-11]	D · NY		Apr 28, 2005
Rep. Wexler, Robert [D-FL-19]	D · FL		Apr 28, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 12, 2005
Homeland Security Committee	House	Reported by	Apr 19, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HRES 269	Procedurally related	May 12, 2005: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
109 S 1013	Related bill	May 12, 2005: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005 - (Sec. 3) Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to set forth provisions governing Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funding for first responders pursuant to the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Urban Area Security Initiative, and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program. Excludes non-DHS programs, fire grant programs, and the Emergency Management Performance Grant program and Urban Search and Rescue Grants program authorized by specified Federal laws.

Makes eligible for a covered grant any State, region, or directly eligible tribe. Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to require any State applying for a covered grant to submit a three-year State homeland security plan, to be developed in consultation with local governments and first responders. Precludes a grant award to a State absent approval of such plan. Sets forth minimum contents for grant applications, including the designation of regional and tribal liaisons (if the applicant is a region or directly eligible tribe). Requires regional and tribal applications to be coordinated with State applications.

Requires the Secretary to establish a First Responder Grants Board. Directs the Board to evaluate and annually prioritize pending applications for covered grants based upon the degree to which they would lessen the threat to, vulnerability of, and consequences for persons (including transient commuters and tourists) and critical infrastructure. Requires such evaluation and prioritization to be based upon the Directorate for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection's most current risk assessment of terrorist threats against the United States. Requires the Board to coordinate with State, local, regional, and tribal officials in establishing grant criteria and to specifically consider: (1) terrorist threats against specified critical infrastructure sectors; and (2) specified types of threats to such critical infrastructure sectors and to populations in all areas of the United States, urban and rural. Sets forth minimum funding amounts for grants, providing for larger grant awards to applicants that have a significant international land border and/or adjoin a body of water within North America through which an international boundary line extends.

Directs the Secretary to establish a Task Force on Terrorism Preparedness for First Responders to assist the Secretary in updating, revising, or replacing essential capabilities for terrorism preparedness. Requires the Task Force to submit reports on its recommendations to the Secretary within 12 months of establishment and every two years thereafter. Requires the Task Force to ensure that its recommendations are consistent with the preparedness goals or recommendations of the Federal working group established under the Public Health Service Act and to take into account terrorism-related capabilities that State or local officials have determined to be essential and have undertaken since September 11, 2001.

Lists authorized uses of covered grants. Prohibits the use of grant funds to supplant State or local funds, to construct physical facilities, to acquire land, or for any State or local government cost sharing contribution. Authorizes covered grant applicants to petition the Secretary for reimbursement of the costs of any activity relating to prevention of, preparedness for, response to, or recovery from acts of terrorism that is a Federal duty and normally performed by a Federal agency, and that is being performed by a State and/or local government under agreement with a Federal agency. Sets the Federal share of the costs of activities carried out under covered grants at 100 percent of the total for the two-year period following enactment of this Act and at 75 percent thereafter. Requires each covered grant recipient to submit annual reports on homeland security spending. Establishes penalties for States that fail to pass through to local governments, first responders, and other local groups funds or resources, as required by this Act, within 45 days of receipt.

Requires the Secretary to report to Congress on grant program activities annually.

Directs the Secretary, in consultation with specified officials and standards organizations, to promulgate national voluntary consensus standards for grant-funded first responder equipment and training. Requires the coordination of such activities that relate to health professionals with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(Sec. 4) States that this Act supersedes a provision of the USA PATRIOT Act that sets forth minimum allocation amounts for domestic preparedness grants.

(Sec. 5) Directs the Secretary to establish within the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) an Office of the Comptroller to oversee the grant distribution process and the financial management of ODP.

(Sec. 6) Requires the Comptroller General to report to Congress on the overall inventory and status of first responder training programs of DHS and other Federal agencies and the extent to which such programs are coordinated.

(Sec. 7) States that a person (including a governmental or other entity) who donates fire control or fire rescue equipment to a volunteer fire company shall not be liable for State or Federal civil damages for personal injuries, property damage or loss, or death caused by the equipment after the donation.

Waives such liability protection if: (1) the person's act or omission causing the injury, damage, loss, or death constitutes gross negligence or intentional misconduct; or (2) the person is the manufacturer of such equipment.

Preempts State law unless such law provides additional protection from liability.

Actions Timeline

- **May 12, 2005:** Rule H. Res. 269 passed House.
- **May 12, 2005:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 269. (consideration: CR H3211-3237)
- **May 12, 2005:** Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1544 with 1 hour of general debate. Previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motions except motion to recommit with or without instructions. Measure will be considered read. Specified amendments are in order.
- **May 12, 2005:** House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union pursuant to H. Res. 269 and Rule XVIII.
- **May 12, 2005:** The Speaker designated the Honorable Ken Calvert to act as Chairman of the Committee.
- **May 12, 2005:** GENERAL DEBATE - The Committee of the Whole proceeded with one hour of general debate on H.R. 1544.
- **May 12, 2005:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 269, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Berry amendment.
- **May 12, 2005:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 269, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 20 minutes of debate on the Berry amendment.
- **May 12, 2005:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 269 the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 20 minutes of debate on the Bass amendment.
- **May 12, 2005:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 269 the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 20 minutes of debate on the Weiner amendment.
- **May 12, 2005:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Weiner amendment, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote, announced that the noes had prevailed. Mr. Weiner demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until later in the legislative day.
- **May 12, 2005:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 269 the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 20 minutes of debate on the Castle amendment.
- **May 12, 2005:** UNFINISHED BUSINESS - The Chair announced that the unfinished business was the question of adoption of the Weiner amendment which had been debated earlier and on which further proceedings had been postponed.
- **May 12, 2005:** The House rose from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to report H.R. 1544.
- **May 12, 2005:** The previous question was ordered pursuant to the rule. (consideration: CR H3236)
- **May 12, 2005:** The House adopted the amendment in the nature of a substitute as agreed to by the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. (text: CR H3223-3228)
- **May 12, 2005:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 409 - 10 (Roll no. 170).
- **May 12, 2005:** On passage Passed by recorded vote: 409 - 10 (Roll no. 170).
- **May 12, 2005:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **May 12, 2005:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **May 10, 2005:** Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 269 Reported to House. Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1544 with 1 hour of general debate. Previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motions except motion to recommit with or without instructions. Measure will be considered read. Specified amendments are in order.
- **Apr 28, 2005:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 109-65.
- **Apr 28, 2005:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 109-65.
- **Apr 28, 2005:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 32.
- **Apr 21, 2005:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 21, 2005:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Apr 19, 2005:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 19, 2005:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Unanimous Consent.
- **Apr 12, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 12, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 12, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology.
- **Apr 12, 2005:** Referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security.