

S 1725

Assure Emergency and Interoperable Communications for First Responders Act of 2005

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: Sep 19, 2005

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 232.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 232. (Sep 29, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/1725>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 19, 2005
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Sep 19, 2005
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Sep 19, 2005
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Sep 19, 2005
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Sep 27, 2005
Sen. Coleman, Norm [R-MN]	R · MN		Sep 27, 2005
Sen. Salazar, Ken [D-CO]	D · CO		Sep 27, 2005
Sen. Warner, John [R-VA]	R · VA		Sep 27, 2005
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Sep 30, 2005
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Oct 3, 2005
Sen. Dayton, Mark [D-MN]	D · MN		Oct 4, 2005
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Oct 18, 2005
Sen. Chafee, Lincoln [R-RI]	R · RI		May 18, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 29, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Assure Emergency and Interoperable Communications for First Responders Act of 2005 - **Title I: Emergency and Interoperable Communications** - (Sec. 103) Amends the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to establish an Office for Emergency Communications, Interoperability, and Compatibility (OECIC) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), replacing the current Office for Interoperability and Compatibility. Requires the OECIC Director to conduct extensive, national outreach and foster the development of emergency communications capabilities and interoperable communications systems by state, local, and tribal governments, public safety agencies, and regional consortia.

Defines emergency communications capabilities as the ability to provide, throughout an emergency response operation, a continuous flow of information among emergency responders, agencies, and government officials from multiple disciplines and jurisdictions and at all levels of government in the event of a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other large-scale or catastrophic emergency, including where there has been significant damage to, or destruction of, critical infrastructure, substantial loss of ordinary telecommunications infrastructure, and sustained loss of electricity.

Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), acting through the OECIC Director, to: (1) conduct a nationwide assessment of the achievement and needs of communications interoperability; (2) assess of the ability of communities to provide and maintain emergency communications among emergency response providers and government officials in a large-scale emergency; (3) list best practices among communities for doing so; and (4) study the feasibility and desirability of developing a mobile DHS communications capability, modeled on the Army Signal Corps, that could be deployed to support emergency communications at the site of a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other large-scale emergency.

(Sec. 104) Directs the Secretary to establish a comprehensive research and development program to promote emergency communications capabilities and communications interoperability among first responders by: (1) competitive research through the Directorate of Science and Technology Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency; and (2) possible establishment, under a competitive process, of a Center of Excellence focused on enhancing related information and communications systems.

(Sec. 105) Requires the Secretary to establish at least two pilot projects to develop and evaluate strategies and technologies for emergency communications capabilities among emergency response providers and government officials in the event of a large-scale emergency in which there is significant damage to, or destruction of, critical infrastructure.

(Sec. 106) Authorizes appropriations for FY2006-FY2009 and following fiscal years.

(Sec. 107) Directs the Secretary, through the Office of Domestic Preparedness of the DHS Office of State and Local Government Preparedness and Coordination, to make grants to states and eligible regions for initiatives necessary to: (1) improve emergency communications capabilities; and (2) achieve solutions to statewide, regional, national and, where appropriate, international interoperability.

Allows the use of such grants for initiatives to achieve short-term or long-term solutions for emergency communications and interoperability within the state or region, and to assist with any aspect of the communication life cycle.

Authorizes appropriations for FY2006-FY2010 and following fiscal years.

(Sec. 109) Establishes an Interagency Committee on Emergency Communications and Interoperability to report to the

President and Congress on how to: (1) most effectively accelerate the development of national standards for public safety interoperable communications in accordance with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; and (2) ensure that federal officials responding to a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other large-scale emergency have the means to provide emergency communications capabilities where there is significant damage to, or destruction of, critical infrastructure, including substantial loss of ordinary telecommunications infrastructure and sustained loss of electricity.

(Sec. 111) Establishes within the Department of Homeland Security an International Border Community Interoperable Communications Demonstration Project. Requires the Secretary to select at least six communities to participate, three on the northern border and three on the southern border of the United States. Authorizes appropriations for FY2006-FY2008.

Title II: Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring - Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act of 2005 - (Sec. 202) Amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for the protection of the health and safety of individuals in a disaster area.

Authorizes the President to carry out a program for the protection, assessment, monitoring, and study of the health and safety of such individuals if one or more substances of concern are being, or have been, released in a disaster area.

(Sec. 203) Directs the Secretary, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to enter jointly into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to study and report on disaster area health and environmental protection and monitoring, especially on potential exposure to any chemical or other substance associated with potential acute or chronic human health effects.

(Sec. 204) Extends through FY2007 the authority for a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program.

Title III: Evacuation in Emergencies - (Sec. 301) Requires the Secretary to take appropriate actions to ensure that each state requires appropriate state and local officials to develop detailed and comprehensive pre-disaster and post-disaster plans for the evacuation of individuals with special needs, including the elderly, disabled individuals, low-income individuals and families, the homeless, and individuals who do not speak English, along with plans for provision of food, water, and shelter.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 29, 2005:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Collins with amendments. Without written report.
- **Sep 29, 2005:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Collins with amendments. Without written report.
- **Sep 29, 2005:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 232.
- **Sep 22, 2005:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably.
- **Sep 19, 2005:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 19, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S10196)
- **Sep 19, 2005:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S10196-10200)