

HR 5556

Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: Jun 8, 2006

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. (Jun 23, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/5556>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-19]

Party: Republican • State: IL • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bono, Mary [R-CA-45]	R · CA		Jun 8, 2006
Rep. English, Phil [R-PA-3]	R · PA		Jun 8, 2006
Rep. Melancon, Charlie [D-LA-3]	D · LA		Jun 8, 2006
Rep. Wynn, Albert Russell [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Jun 8, 2006
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Jun 22, 2006
Rep. Costello, Jerry F. [D-IL-12]	D · IL		Jun 26, 2006
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jun 28, 2006
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jul 10, 2006
Rep. Bradley, Jeb [R-NH-1]	R · NH		Jul 10, 2006
Rep. Radanovich, George [R-CA-19]	R · CA		Jul 10, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 23, 2006
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 20, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 5785	Related bill	Aug 1, 2006: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.
109 S 1753	Related bill	Dec 8, 2005: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 321.

Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act - Establishes: (1) a voluntary National Alert System to provide a public communications system capable of alerting the public to emergency situations on a national, regional, or local basis; and (2) the National Alert Office within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to administer, operate, and manage the System.

Sets forth System functions and capabilities, including: (1) enabling federal, state, tribal, or local government officials with credentials issued by the Office to alert the public to imminent threats that present a significant risk of injury or death; and (2) incorporating multiple communications technologies without interfering with existing alerts or communications systems employed by emergency response personnel.

Requires the Office to establish a process for issuing credentials to enable officials responsible for issuing safety warnings to access the System.

Directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to initiate proceedings to: (1) allow licensees providing commercial mobile service to elect to transmit System alerts to subscribers; and (2) require public broadcast television licensees to install necessary equipment to enable transmitters to receive and retransmit System alerts.

Requires the Director of the Office to: (1) establish a National Alert System Working Group to develop recommendations for protocols, procedures, guidelines, and standards and to work with the operators of nuclear power plants and other critical infrastructure facilities to integrate emergency alert systems; and (2) establish an extramural research and development program to support the development of technology that will enable all existing and future providers of communications services and devices to be utilized effectively with the System.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 23, 2006:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.
- **Jun 20, 2006:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards.
- **Jun 8, 2006:** Introduced in House
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- **Jun 8, 2006:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
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