HR 1602

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Environmental Justice Act of 2007

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Environmental Protection
Introduced: Mar 20, 2007
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. (Mar 21, 2007)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/1602

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Jefferson, William J. [D-LA-2]
Party: Democratic • **State:** LA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 21, 2007
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 20, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Mar 20, 2007)

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Environmental Justice Act of 2007 - Defines "environmental justice" to mean the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and socioeconomic groups with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of laws and policies affecting the environment.

Requires the heads of federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of their programs on minority, low-income populations in the area affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Requires agencies to conduct programs in a manner to prevent discrimination.

Establishes the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (Working Group).

Requires federal agencies to develop agency-wide environmental justice strategies that identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effects or disproportionately low benefits of their programs with respect to minority, low-income populations. Requires such strategies to identify programs that should be revised to: (1) promote enforcement of all health and environmental statutes in areas with such populations; (2) ensure greater public participation; (3) improve research and data collection; and (4) identify differential patterns of use of natural resources among such populations.

Establishes the Federal Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Environmental Justice Advisory Committee to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Working Group on areas relating to environmental justice.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 21, 2007:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials.
- **Mar 20, 2007:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 20, 2007:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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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