

## S 546

### RESPONSE Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Emergency Management

**Introduced:** Feb 24, 2015

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 114-321.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 114-321. (Dec 16, 2016)

**Law:** 114-321 (Enacted Dec 16, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/546>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]

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

### Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 24, 2015
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 24, 2015
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 24, 2015
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Feb 26, 2015
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 10, 2015
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Jun 9, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 21, 2015
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Reported By	Nov 14, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Emergency Management

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1043	Related bill	<b>Feb 25, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

## **RESPONSE Act of 2016**

(Sec. 2) This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee of the National Advisory Council.

The RESPONSE Subcommittee shall develop recommendations for improving emergency responder training and resource allocation for hazardous materials (hazmat) incidents involving railroads after evaluating the following topics:

- the quality and application of training for state and local emergency responders related to rail hazmat incidents, including training for emergency responders serving small communities near railroads;
- the availability and effectiveness of federal, state, local, and nongovernmental funding levels related to training emergency responders for rail hazmat incidents, including emergency responders serving small communities near railroads; and
- the strategy for integrating commodity flow studies, mapping, and rail and hazmat databases for state and local emergency responders and increasing the rate of access to the individual responder in existing or emerging communications technology.

The RESPONSE Subcommittee shall terminate within 90 days after the council submits a report approving the RESPONSE Subcommittee recommendations.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Dec 16, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 16, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-321.
- **Dec 14, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 12, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7104)
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Resolving differences -- Senate actions: Senate agreed to the House amendment to S. 546 by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Senate agreed to the House amendment to S. 546 by Unanimous Consent.
- **Nov 30, 2016:** Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendment to Senate bill.
- **Nov 29, 2016:** Mr. Denham moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Nov 29, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6319-6321)
- **Nov 29, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 546.
- **Nov 29, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text of measure as passed: CR H6319-6320)
- **Nov 29, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text of measure as passed: CR H6319-6320)
- **Nov 29, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 14, 2016:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H. Rept. 114-808.
- **Nov 14, 2016:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 632.
- **Sep 14, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Sep 14, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **May 10, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **May 10, 2016:** Received in the House.
- **May 10, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
- **May 9, 2016:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S2649)
- **May 9, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **May 9, 2016:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jul 21, 2015:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Johnson without amendment. With written report No. 114-85.
- **Jul 21, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 155.
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Feb 24, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 24, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.