

## HR 42

### FRIENDS Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Emergency Management

**Introduced:** Jan 3, 2019

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. (Feb 7, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/42>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 4, 2019
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 7, 2019

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Emergency Management

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 3060	Related bill	Jun 28, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

## **First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations or the FRIENDS Act**

This bill directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit a report that describes select state and local programs and policies related to the preparedness and protection of first responders, which may include information on:

- the degree to which such programs and policies include consideration of the presence of a first responder's family in an area impacted by a terrorist attack,
- the availability of personal protective equipment for first responders, and
- the availability of home Medkits for first responders and their families for biological incident response.

The GAO may provide information: (1) in a format that delineates high risk urban areas from rural communities; and (2) on the degree to which the selected state and local programs and policies were developed or are being executed with funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including grants from the State Homeland Security Grant Program or the Urban Area Security Initiative.

DHS shall consider the report's findings and assess its applicability for federal first responders.

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### **Actions Timeline**

- **Feb 7, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.
- **Feb 4, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.
- **Jan 3, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 3, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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.