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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a program to provide technical and financial assistance to State, local, and Tribal authorities to conduct testing of emergency alert and warning systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MULLIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a program to provide technical and financial assistance to State, local, and Tribal authorities to conduct testing of emergency alert and warning systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Resilient Emergency
5 Alert Communications and Training Act” or the “REACT
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEMS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
3 Emergency Management Agency shall carry out a pro-
4 gram to provide technical and financial assistance to
5 State, local, and Tribal authorities to conduct periodic
6 field training, end-to-end testing, and community-based
7 exercises of emergency alert and warning systems, which
8 shall be in addition to support provided under any existing
9 program.

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The technical and financial as-
11 sistance provided under subsection (a) shall include—

12 (1) funding and training for community-based
13 exercises, including organized live testing at the local
14 level;

15 (2) assistance with establishing a clear delineation of roles, responsibilities, and standard operating
16 procedures within the emergency alert and warning
17 chain of authorization, including across local, Tribal,
18 State, and Federal authorities;

19 (3) developing and publishing templates for
20 emergency alert and warning messages, in accordance with evidence-based scientific research, that—

21 (A) may include message completeness requirements; and
22

23 (B) build upon existing training materials;
24
25

1 (4) training on best practices for crafting, dis-
2 seminating, and assessing the effectiveness of emer-
3 gency alert and warning messages, provided across
4 different platforms and jurisdictions;

5 (5) development of standardized metrics to as-
6 sess the effectiveness of emergency alert and warn-
7 ing systems;

8 (6) testing of technology and infrastructure for
9 emergency alert and warning systems, including
10 multimodal capabilities, to ensure such systems are
11 working effectively and in coordination with one an-
12 other;

13 (7) technical assistance for the development of
14 public education campaigns that explain how emer-
15 gency alert and warning systems work, actions by
16 individuals required to ensure they receive alerts and
17 warnings, and how individuals and communities
18 should respond; and

19 (8) review of, and recommendations for, local
20 policy and standard operating procedures regarding
21 the use of emergency alert and warning systems.

22 (c) OPERATIONAL PLAN.—Not later than 1 year
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator,
24 in consultation with State, local, and Tribal authorities,
25 shall develop and submit to Congress a plan for carrying

1 out the program under this section. Such plan shall con-
2 tain anticipated costs and metrics to assess the effective-
3 ness of such training, testing, and exercises.

4 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Ad-
6 ministrator shall submit to Congress a report on the field
7 training, end-to-end testing, community-based exercises,
8 and public education supported under this section and
9 such report shall contain—

10 (1) for each Alerting Authority under the Inte-
11 grated Public Alert and Warning System and for
12 each State, local, or Tribal authority receiving as-
13 sistance under this section that is not an established
14 Alerting Authority—

15 (A) whether the authority has conducted
16 field training, end-to-end testing, community-
17 based exercises, and public education relating to
18 the emergency alert and warning systems of
19 such authority;

20 (B) the frequency and scope of the activi-
21 ties described in subparagraph (A);

22 (C) whether the authority has established
23 sufficient standard operating procedures re-
24 garding the use of its emergency alert and
25 warning systems;

1 (D) a description of the percentage of indi-
2 viduals or regions covered by its emergency
3 alert and warning systems;

4 (E) a description of the methods used to
5 obtain public participation and feedback, and
6 their results, during and after such activities;
7 and

8 (F) a description of opt-out rates for emer-
9 gency alert and warning systems during and
10 after such activities;

11 (2) an assessment of the effectiveness of such
12 field training, end-to-end testing, and community-
13 based exercises as measured by the metrics con-
14 tained in the plan required under subsection (c); and

15 (3) any recommendations for updating such
16 plan.

17 (e) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-
18 tion shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the
19 date of enactment of this Act.

20 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
22 carry out this section \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2025 through 2035.

24 (g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
25 tion may be construed to require State, local and Tribal

1 authorities to be mandated to use any particular emer-
2 gency alert and warning system.

3 (h) EMERGENCY ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM DE-
4 FINED.—In this section, the term “emergency alert and
5 warning system” means any system used by a State, local,
6 or Tribal authority to warn the public about emergencies
7 or natural hazards, including such systems that operate
8 through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System.