

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
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10 JUL 21 P4:05

SENATE
S. No. 1759

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Existing first responder grant programs serve an important role in national preparedness by supporting the heroic efforts of first responder populations and services. This bill would extend this effort by providing funding for first responder programs that are novel, such as programs that target special populations (children or the elderly) or that serve a particular community need like mobile nursing units for rural communities or wireless technologies to improve the interoperability of first responder networks.

This bill¹ would provide grants on a competitive basis to first responder programs and would provide a funding preference for projects that expand the first responder paradigm, *i.e.* mobile nurse units, improved elderly evacuation, improved methods for first responder to first responder communication, and state of the art tools/gear.²


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14th Congress.

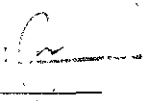
² http://www.reinsurance.org/files/public/Thompson_Mitigation_Bills_Summaries.pdf.

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 21 P4:05

SENATE
S. No. 1759

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM FOR TO ASSIST INNOVATIVE NATURAL
3 DISASTER FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAMS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “First Responder
5 Innovation and Support Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the term:

7 (A) “Eligible Entity” means any of the local government units, as defined under
8 the Local Government Code, that that has an approved mitigation plan;

9 (B) “First responder” means an individual who in the early stages of an incident is
10 responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the
11 environment, including emergency response providers and emergency management,
12 public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, including
13 equipment operators, that provide immediate support services during prevention,
14 response, and recovery operations; and

15 (C) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Department of National Defense.

16 SEC. 3. *First Responder Innovation and Support Grant Program.* –

17 (A) *In General.* – The Secretary may make grants to eligible entities to assist
18 innovative natural disaster first responder programs;

1 (B) *Application.* – To be eligible for a grant, an eligible entity shall submit an
2 application to the Secretary. Such application shall include, at a minimum, a description
3 of each of the following:

4 (1) The purpose for which the grant is sought and the reason State assistance is
5 needed for such purpose.

6 (2) The innovation with respect to natural disaster first responders to be achieved
7 with the grant.

8 (3) A budget for the expected expenditure of the grant amounts.

9 (C) *Selection Criteria.* – The Secretary shall issue regulations establishing
10 selection criteria for making grants. Such criteria shall include consideration of the
11 following:

12 (1) The severity and frequency of natural disasters that affect the eligible entity
13 applying for the grant.

14 (2) Whether existing natural disaster first responder systems would be improved
15 by the grant.

16 (3) Whether the grant would provide natural disaster first responder support for
17 special populations, including children, pregnant women, the elderly, and the
18 disabled.

19 (4) Whether the activity assisted by the grant is sustainable with non-Federal
20 amounts after such grant is made.

21 (D) *Timing and Number of Grants.* – The Secretary shall make grants annually
22 and an eligible entity may apply for multiple grants each year. An eligible entity is not
23 limited in the number of grants such entity may receive under this Act.

24 (E) *Competitive Basis.* – The Secretary shall make grants on a competitive basis
25 subject to the requirements of this section.

1 SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Not later than six months
2 after the date of effectivity of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations necessary to
3 carry out this Act.

4 SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed for the initial implementation
5 of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of National
6 Defense. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its full implementation shall
7 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and separate item.

8 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid
9 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall
10 remain valid and subsisting.

11 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
12 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,
13 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
14 accordingly.

15 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
16 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,