

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

15 AUG 26 P5:17

SENATE  
S. No. 2919

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

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 bill<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, Third Regular Session..

<sup>2</sup> URL <[http://www.reinsurance.org/files/public/Thompson\\_Mitigation\\_Bills\\_Summaries.pdf](http://www.reinsurance.org/files/public/Thompson_Mitigation_Bills_Summaries.pdf)>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 3. *First Responder Innovation and Support Grant Program.* —

2 (A) *In General.* — The Secretary may make grants to eligible entities to  
3 assist innovative natural disaster first responder programs;

4 (B) *Application.* — To be eligible for a grant, an eligible entity shall submit  
5 an application to the Secretary. Such application shall include, at a minimum, a  
6 description of each of the following:

7 (1) The purpose for which the grant is sought and the reason government  
8 assistance is needed for such purpose.

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

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

12 (C) *Selection Criteria.* — The Secretary shall issue regulations establishing  
13 selection criteria for making grants. Such criteria shall include consideration of the  
14 following:

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

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

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

22 (4) Whether the activity assisted by the grant is sustainable with local  
23 government funds after such grant is made.

24 (D) *Timing and Number of Grants.* — The Secretary shall make grants  
25 annually and an eligible entity may apply for multiple grants each year. An

1 eligible entity is not limited in the number of grants such entity may receive under  
2 this Act.

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

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

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

13 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held  
14 invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of  
15 the other provisions hereof.

16 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive order or  
17 rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
18 accordingly.

19 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
20 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of  
21 general circulation.

Approved,

/apm20August2015