

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to evaluate the National Response Framework based on lessons learned from the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to evaluate the National Response Framework based on lessons learned from the COVID–19 pandemic, 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 “National Response
5 Framework Improvement Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION OF NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAME-**
2 **WORK.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
5 Federal Emergency Management Agency (referred to in
6 this Act as the “Administrator”), acting through the Na-
7 tional Integration Center, shall conduct an initial evalua-
8 tion of the National Response Framework of the Depart-
9 ment of Homeland Security to determine whether there
10 are any gaps or inefficiencies in the Framework based on
11 the response to the COVID–19 pandemic.

12 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—After conducting the evalua-
13 tion required under subsection (a), the Administrator
14 shall—

15 (1) in accordance with section 509(b)(2) of the
16 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
17 319(b)(2)), update the National Response Frame-
18 work, in coordination with the heads of the primary
19 and support agencies of the emergency support func-
20 tions, based on the gaps or inefficiencies identified
21 through the evaluation;

22 (2) provide recommendations on actions rel-
23 evant agencies can take to address gaps identified
24 through the evaluation; and

1 (3) conduct an additional evaluation as part of
2 the after-action review process of the Federal Emer-
3 gency Management Agency.

4 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY INFORMATION SHARING.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

6 (1) evaluate the processes for collecting and
7 sharing information across the primary and support
8 agencies of the emergency support functions during
9 an incident for which the emergency support func-
10 tions are activated under the National Response
11 Framework;

12 (2) provide recommendations to the heads of
13 the primary and support agencies of emergency sup-
14 port functions for how to improve processes under
15 paragraph (1); and

16 (3) update the National Response Framework
17 to account for new information collection and shar-
18 ing processes that result from the evaluation and
19 recommendations under paragraphs (1) and (2).

20 (b) COORDINATION.—In evaluating the processes re-
21 quired under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall co-
22 ordinate with the head of each emergency support function
23 coordinator and the heads of primary and support agen-
24 cies of the emergency support functions.

1 (c) MODIFICATIONS.—The Administrator may make
2 modifications to the processes incorporated into the Na-
3 tional Response Framework under subsection (a)(3) dur-
4 ing an incident in which the emergency support functions
5 are activated under the National Response Framework if
6 the Administrator determines such modifications are nec-
7 essary to ensure efficient communication and information
8 sharing.

9 **SEC. 4. TRAINING.**

10 (a) EVALUATION OF TRAINING PROGRAM.—Not later
11 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
12 Administrator shall—

13 (1) conduct an assessment of the training pro-
14 grams for primary and support agencies of the
15 emergency support functions under the National Re-
16 sponse Network that are in effect on the date of en-
17 actment of this Act; and

18 (2) provide recommendations to the heads of
19 the primary and support agencies of emergency sup-
20 port functions for how to improve the training pro-
21 grams described in paragraph (1).

22 (b) ANNUAL TRAINING.—The Administrator shall, on
23 an annual basis and in coordination with the heads of pri-
24 mary and support agencies of the emergency support func-
25 tions under the National Response Framework, provide

1 training on enhancements or updates made to the Na-
2 tional Response Framework.

3 **SEC. 5. REQUIRED BRIEFING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
6 brief the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
7 mental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Home-
8 land Security of the House of Representatives on—

9 (1) the evaluation conducted under section 2,
10 including the updates made to the National Re-
11 sponse Framework and the recommendations re-
12 quired under section 2(b);

13 (2) the evaluation and recommendations devel-
14 oped under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 3(a);
15 and

16 (3) the training program required to be estab-
17 lished under section 4, including information relat-
18 ing to how frequently training is offered and the at-
19 tendance of the training by employees of relevant
20 agencies.

21 (b) NOTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall provide
22 notice to Congress on any technology system updates that
23 develop after the briefing required under subsection (a)
24 that may impact information sharing efforts across the
25 emergency support functions.