

(Pub. L. 107–296, title V, § 524, as added Pub. L. 110–53, title IX, § 901(a), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 365; amended Pub. L. 116–283, div. H, title XC, § 9002(c)(2)(B), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4772.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (b)(2)(E)(i)(II). Pub. L. 116–283, § 9002(c)(2)(B)(i), substituted “Sector Risk Management Agency” for “sector-specific agency”.

Subsec. (c)(1)(B). Pub. L. 116–283, § 9002(c)(2)(B)(ii), substituted “Sector Risk Management Agency” for “sector-specific agency”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

Reference to Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection deemed to be a reference to Assistant Director for Infrastructure Security, see section 654(a)(3) of this title. Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection serving on the day before Nov. 16, 2018, authorized to continue to serve as Assistant Director for Infrastructure Security on and after such date, see section 2(b)(4) of Pub. L. 115–278, set out as a note under section 654 of this title.

DEADLINE FOR DESIGNATION OF OFFICER

Pub. L. 110–53, title IX, § 901(c), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 371, provided that: “The Secretary of Homeland Security shall designate the officer as described in section 524 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 [6 U.S.C. 321m], as added by subsection (a), by not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 3, 2007].”

§ 321n. Acceptance of gifts

(a) Authority

The Secretary may accept and use gifts of property, both real and personal, and may accept gifts of services, including from guest lecturers, for otherwise authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to efforts to prevent, prepare for, protect against, or respond to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster, including the use of a weapon of mass destruction.

(b) Prohibition

The Secretary may not accept a gift under this section if the Secretary determines that the use of the property or services would compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of—

- (1) a program of the Department; or
- (2) an individual involved in a program of the Department.

(c) Report

(1) In general

The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an annual report disclosing—

- (A) any gifts that were accepted under this section during the year covered by the report;
- (B) how the gifts contribute to the mission of the Center for Domestic Preparedness; and
- (C) the amount of Federal savings that were generated from the acceptance of the gifts.

(2) Publication

Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be made publically available.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title V, § 525, as added Pub. L. 111–245, § 2(a)(1), Sept. 30, 2010, 124 Stat. 2620.)

§ 321o. Integrated public alert and warning system modernization

(a) In general

To provide timely and effective warnings regarding natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety, the Administrator shall—

- (1) modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States (in this section referred to as the “public alert and warning system”) to help ensure that under all conditions the President and, except to the extent the public alert and warning system is in use by the President, Federal agencies and State, tribal, and local governments can alert and warn the civilian population in areas endangered by natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety; and

- (2) implement the public alert and warning system to disseminate timely and effective warnings regarding natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety.

(b) Implementation requirements

In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

- (1) establish or adopt, as appropriate, common alerting and warning protocols, standards, terminology, and operating procedures for the public alert and warning system;

- (2) include in the public alert and warning system the capability to adapt the distribution and content of communications on the basis of geographic location, risks, and multiple communication systems and technologies, as appropriate and to the extent technically feasible;

- (3) include in the public alert and warning system the capability to alert, warn, and provide equivalent information to individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and functional needs, and individuals with limited-English proficiency, to the extent technically feasible;

- (4) ensure that training, tests, and exercises are conducted for the public alert and warning system, including by—

(A) incorporating the public alert and warning system into other training and exercise programs of the Department, as appropriate;

(B) establishing and integrating into the National Incident Management System a comprehensive and periodic training program to instruct and educate Federal, State, tribal, and local government officials in the use of the Common Alerting Protocol enabled Emergency Alert System; and

(C) conducting, not less than once every 3 years, periodic nationwide tests of the public alert and warning system;

- (5) to the extent practicable, ensure that the public alert and warning system is resilient

and secure and can withstand acts of terrorism and other external attacks;

(6) conduct public education efforts so that State, tribal, and local governments, private entities, and the people of the United States reasonably understand the functions of the public alert and warning system and how to access, use, and respond to information from the public alert and warning system through a general market awareness campaign;

(7) consult, coordinate, and cooperate with the appropriate private sector entities and Federal, State, tribal, and local governmental authorities, including the Regional Administrators and emergency response providers;

(8) consult and coordinate with the Federal Communications Commission, taking into account rules and regulations promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission; and

(9) coordinate with and consider the recommendations of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Subcommittee established under section 2(b) of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015.

(c) System requirements

The public alert and warning system shall—

(1) to the extent determined appropriate by the Administrator, incorporate multiple communications technologies;

(2) be designed to adapt to, and incorporate, future technologies for communicating directly with the public;

(3) to the extent technically feasible, be designed—

(A) to provide alerts to the largest portion of the affected population feasible, including nonresident visitors and tourists, individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and functional needs, and individuals with limited-English proficiency; and

(B) to improve the ability of remote areas to receive alerts;

(4) promote local and regional public and private partnerships to enhance community preparedness and response;

(5) provide redundant alert mechanisms where practicable so as to reach the greatest number of people; and

(6) to the extent feasible, include a mechanism to ensure the protection of individual privacy.

(d) Use of system

Except to the extent necessary for testing the public alert and warning system, the public alert and warning system shall not be used to transmit a message that does not relate to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster or threat to public safety.

(e) Performance reports

(1) In general

Not later than 1 year after April 11, 2016, and annually thereafter through 2018, the Administrator shall make available on the public website of the Agency a performance report, which shall—

(A) establish performance goals for the implementation of the public alert and warning system by the Agency;

(B) describe the performance of the public alert and warning system, including—

(i) the type of technology used for alerts and warnings issued under the system;

(ii) the measures taken to alert, warn, and provide equivalent information to individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and function¹ needs, and individuals with limited-English proficiency; and

(iii) the training, tests, and exercises performed and the outcomes obtained by the Agency;

(C) identify significant challenges to the effective operation of the public alert and warning system and any plans to address these challenges;

(D) identify other necessary improvements to the system; and

(E) provide an analysis comparing the performance of the public alert and warning system with the performance goals established under subparagraph (A).

(2) Congress

The Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives each report required under paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 107–296, title V, §526, as added Pub. L. 114–143, §2(a), Apr. 11, 2016, 130 Stat. 327.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 2(b) of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015, referred to in subsec. (b)(9), is section 2(b) of Pub. L. 114–143, Apr. 11, 2016, 130 Stat. 329, which is not classified to the Code.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CONSTRUCTION

Pub. L. 114–143, §2(d), Apr. 11, 2016, 130 Stat. 332, provided that:

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘participating commercial mobile service provider’ has the meaning given that term under section 10.10(f) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Apr. 11, 2016].

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this Act [enacting this section and provisions set out as a note under section 101 of this title], including an amendment made by this Act, shall be construed—

“(A) to affect any authority—

“(i) of the Department of Commerce;

“(ii) of the Federal Communications Commission;

or

“(iii) provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

“(B) to provide the Secretary of Homeland Security with authority to require any action by the Department of Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission, or any nongovernmental entity;

“(C) to apply to, or to provide the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency with au-

¹ So in original. Probably should be “functional”.

thority over, any participating commercial mobile service provider;

“(D) to alter in any way the wireless emergency alerts service established under the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) or any related orders issued by the Federal Communications Commission after October 13, 2006; or

“(E) to provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency with authority to require a State or local jurisdiction to use the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States.”

§ 321o-1. Integrated public alert and warning system

(a) Definitions

In this section—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Agency;

(2) the term “Agency” means the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(4) the term “public alert and warning system” means the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States described in section 321o of this title;

(5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(6) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States.

(b) Integrated public alert and warning system

(1) In general

Not later than 1 year after December 20, 2019, the Administrator shall develop minimum requirements for State, Tribal, and local governments to participate in the public alert and warning system and that are necessary to maintain the integrity of the public alert and warning system, including—

(A) guidance on the categories of public emergencies and appropriate circumstances that warrant an alert and warning from State, Tribal, and local governments using the public alert and warning system;

(B) the procedures for State, Tribal, and local government officials to authenticate civil emergencies and initiate, modify, and cancel alerts transmitted through the public alert and warning system, including protocols and technology capabilities for—

(i) the initiation, or prohibition on the initiation, of alerts by a single authorized or unauthorized individual;

(ii) testing a State, Tribal, or local government incident management and warning tool without accidentally initiating an alert through the public alert and warning system; and

(iii) steps a State, Tribal, or local government official should take to mitigate

the possibility of the issuance of a false alert through the public alert and warning system;

(C) the standardization, functionality, and interoperability of incident management and warning tools used by State, Tribal, and local governments to notify the public of an emergency through the public alert and warning system;

(D) the annual training and recertification of emergency management personnel on requirements for originating and transmitting an alert through the public alert and warning system;

(E) the procedures, protocols, and guidance concerning the protective action plans that State, Tribal, and local governments shall issue to the public following an alert issued under the public alert and warning system;

(F) the procedures, protocols, and guidance concerning the communications that State, Tribal, and local governments shall issue to the public following a false alert issued under the public alert and warning system;

(G) a plan by which State, Tribal, and local government officials may, during an emergency, contact each other as well as Federal officials and participants in the Emergency Alert System and the Wireless Emergency Alert System, when appropriate and necessary, by telephone, text message, or other means of communication regarding an alert that has been distributed to the public; and

(H) any other procedure the Administrator considers appropriate for maintaining the integrity of and providing for public confidence in the public alert and warning system.

(2) Coordination with National Advisory Council report

The Administrator shall ensure that the minimum requirements developed under paragraph (1) do not conflict with recommendations made for improving the public alert and warning system provided in the report submitted by the National Advisory Council under section 2(b)(7)(B) of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-143; 130 Stat. 332).

(3) Public consultation

In developing the minimum requirements under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall ensure appropriate public consultation and, to the extent practicable, coordinate the development of the requirements with stakeholders of the public alert and warning system, including—

(A) appropriate personnel from Federal agencies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Agency, and the Federal Communications Commission;

(B) representatives of State and local governments and emergency services personnel, who shall be selected from among individuals nominated by national organizations representing those governments and personnel;

(C) representatives of Federally recognized Indian tribes and national Indian organizations;