

# Calendar No. 133

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 686

[Report No. 108-68]

To provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2003

Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BUNNING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

JUNE 11, 2003

Reported by Mr. GREGG, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

---

## A BILL

To provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

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 “Poison Control Center  
5 ~~Enhancement and Awareness Act Amendments of 2003~~”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Section 2 of the Poison Control Enhancement and  
3 Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14801) is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 “Congress finds the following:

7 “(1) Poison control centers are our Nation’s  
8 primary defense against injury and deaths from poi-  
9 soning. Twenty-four hours a day, the general public  
10 as well as health care practitioners contact their  
11 local poison centers for help in diagnosing and treat-  
12 ing victims of poisoning and other toxic exposures.

13 “(2) Poisoning is the third most common form  
14 of unintentional death in the United States. In any  
15 given year, there will be between 2,000,000 and  
16 4,000,000 poison exposures. More than 50 percent  
17 of these exposures will involve children under the age  
18 of 6 who are exposed to toxic substances in their  
19 home. Poisoning accounts for 285,000 hospitaliza-  
20 tions, 1,200,000 days of acute hospital care, and  
21 13,000 fatalities annually.

22 “(3) Stabilizing the funding structure and in-  
23 creasing accessibility to poison control centers will  
24 promote the utilization of poison control centers, and  
25 reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical  
26 services and other more costly health care services.

1           “(4) The tragic events of September 11, 2001,  
2           and the anthrax cases of October 2001, have dra-  
3           matically changed our Nation. During this time pe-  
4           riod, poison centers in many areas of the country  
5           were answering thousands of additional calls from  
6           concerned residents. Many poison centers were relied  
7           upon as a source for accurate medical information  
8           about the disease and the complications resulting  
9           from prophylactic antibiotic therapy.

10           “(5) The 2001 Presidential Task Force on Cit-  
11           izen Preparedness in the War on Terrorism rec-  
12           ommended that the Poison Control Centers be used  
13           as a source of public information and public edu-  
14           cation regarding potential biological, chemical, and  
15           nuclear domestic terrorism.

16           “(6) The increased demand placed upon poison  
17           centers to provide emergency information in the  
18           event of a terrorist event involving a biological,  
19           chemical, or nuclear toxin will dramatically increase  
20           call volume.”.

21 **SEC. 3. MAINTENANCE OF A NATIONAL TOLL FREE NUM-**  
22 **BER.**

23           Section 4 of the Poison Control Enhancement and  
24           Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14803) is amended—



1 **“SEC. 6. MAINTENANCE OF THE POISON CONTROL CENTER**  
 2 **GRANT PROGRAM.”;**

3 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
 4 following:

5 **“(b) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.—**The Secretary shall  
 6 also use amounts received under this section to—

7 **“(1)** develop standardized poison prevention  
 8 and poison control promotion programs;

9 **“(2)** develop standard patient management  
 10 guidelines for commonly encountered toxic expo-  
 11 sures;

12 **“(3)** improve and expand the poison control  
 13 data collection systems;

14 **“(4)** improve national toxic exposure surveil-  
 15 lance;

16 **“(5)** expand the toxicologic expertise within poi-  
 17 son control centers; and

18 **“(6)** improve the capacity of poison control cen-  
 19 ters to answer high volumes of calls during times of  
 20 national crisis”;

21 (3) by striking subsection (d)(2) and inserting  
 22 the following:

23 **“(2) RENEWAL .—**The Secretary may renew a  
 24 waiver under paragraph (1).

25 **“(3) LIMITATION.—**In no instance may the sum  
 26 of the number of years for a waiver under paragraph

1 (1) and a renewal under paragraph (2) exceed 5  
 2 years. The preceding sentence shall take effect as if  
 3 enacted on February 25, 2000.”; and

4 (4) in subsection (h), by inserting “and  
 5 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through  
 6 2009” after “2004”.

7 **SEC. 6. NATIONWIDE TOXICOSURVEILLANCE OF POISON**  
 8 **CENTER DATA TO PROMOTE HAZARD DETEC-**  
 9 **TION.**

10 The Poison Control Enhancement and Awareness Act  
 11 (42 U.S.C. 14801 et seq.) is amended by adding at the  
 12 end the following:

13 **“SEC. 7. NATIONWIDE TOXICOSURVEILLANCE OF POISON**  
 14 **CENTER DATA TO PROMOTE HAZARD DETEC-**  
 15 **TION.**

16 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**— The Secretary shall assist in the  
 17 implementation and maintenance of continuous national  
 18 toxicosurveillance of poison control center data to detect  
 19 new hazards from household products, pharmaceuticals,  
 20 traditionally abused drugs, and other toxic substances.

21 “(b) **CONTRACT FOR SERVICES.**—The Secretary may  
 22 enter into a contract with appropriate professional organi-  
 23 zations for the collection and analysis of poison center  
 24 data described in subsection (a) in real time.

1       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
3 \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.”.

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

5       *This Act may be cited as the “Poison Control Center  
6 Enhancement and Awareness Act Amendments of 2003”.*

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8       *Section 2 of the Poison Control Enhancement and  
9 Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14801) is amended to read as  
10 follows:*

11 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

12       *“Congress finds the following:*

13               *“(1) Poison control centers are our Nation’s pri-  
14 mary defense against injury and deaths from poi-  
15 soning. Twenty-four hours a day, the general public  
16 as well as health care practitioners contact their local  
17 poison centers for help in diagnosing and treating  
18 victims of poisoning and other toxic exposures.*

19               *“(2) Poisoning is the third most common form of  
20 unintentional death in the United States. In any  
21 given year, there will be between 2,000,000 and  
22 4,000,000 poison exposures. More than 50 percent of  
23 these exposures will involve children under the age of  
24 6 who are exposed to toxic substances in their home.  
25 Poisoning accounts for 285,000 hospitalizations,*

1       1,200,000 days of acute hospital care, and 13,000 fa-  
2       talities annually.

3               “(3) Stabilizing the funding structure and in-  
4       creasing accessibility to poison control centers will  
5       promote the utilization of poison control centers, and  
6       reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical  
7       services and other more costly health care services.

8               “(4) The tragic events of September 11, 2001,  
9       and the anthrax cases of October 2001, have dramati-  
10      cally changed our Nation. During this time period,  
11      poison centers in many areas of the country were an-  
12      swering thousands of additional calls from concerned  
13      residents. Many poison centers were relied upon as a  
14      source for accurate medical information about the dis-  
15      ease and the complications resulting from prophyl-  
16      actic antibiotic therapy.

17              “(5) The 2001 Presidential Task Force on Cit-  
18      izen Preparedness in the War on Terrorism rec-  
19      ommended that the Poison Control Centers be used as  
20      a source of public information and public education  
21      regarding potential biological, chemical, and nuclear  
22      domestic terrorism.

23              “(6) The increased demand placed upon poison  
24      centers to provide emergency information in the event  
25      of a terrorist event involving a biological, chemical, or



1 **SEC. 5. POISON CONTROL CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 *Section 6 of the Poison Control Enhancement and*  
3 *Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14805) is amended—*

4 *(1) by striking the section heading and inserting*  
5 *the following:*

6 **“SEC. 6. MAINTENANCE OF THE POISON CONTROL CENTER**  
7 **GRANT PROGRAM.”;**

8 *(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the*  
9 *following:*

10 *“(b) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.—The Secretary shall*  
11 *also use amounts received under this section to—*

12 *“(1) develop standardized poison prevention and*  
13 *poison control promotion programs;*

14 *“(2) develop standard patient management*  
15 *guidelines for commonly encountered toxic exposures;*

16 *“(3) improve and expand the poison control data*  
17 *collection systems;*

18 *“(4) improve national toxic exposure surveil-*  
19 *lance;*

20 *“(5) expand the toxicologic expertise within poi-*  
21 *son control centers; and*

22 *“(6) improve the capacity of poison control cen-*  
23 *ters to answer high volumes of calls during times of*  
24 *national crisis”;*

25 *(3) by striking subsection (d)(2) and inserting*  
26 *the following:*

1           “(2) *RENEWAL.*—*The Secretary may renew a*  
2           *waiver under paragraph (1).*”

3           “(3) *LIMITATION.*—*In no instance may the sum*  
4           *of the number of years for a waiver under paragraph*  
5           *(1) and a renewal under paragraph (2) exceed 5*  
6           *years. The preceding sentence shall take effect as if en-*  
7           *acted on February 25, 2000.”; and*

8           (4) *in subsection (h), by inserting “and*  
9           *\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through*  
10           *2009” after “2004”.*

11 **SEC. 6. NATIONWIDE TOXICOSURVEILLANCE OF POISON**  
12                           **CENTER DATA TO PROMOTE HAZARD DETEC-**  
13                           **TION.**

14           *The Poison Control Enhancement and Awareness Act*  
15           *(42 U.S.C. 14801 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end*  
16           *the following:*

17 **“SEC. 7. NATIONWIDE TOXICOSURVEILLANCE OF POISON**  
18                           **CENTER DATA TO PROMOTE HAZARD DETEC-**  
19                           **TION.**

20           “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall assist in the*  
21           *implementation and maintenance of continuous national*  
22           *toxicosurveillance of poison control center data to detect*  
23           *new hazards from household products, pharmaceuticals, tra-*  
24           *ditionally abused drugs, and other toxic substances.*”

1       “(b) *COMPETITIVE GRANT OR CONTRACT FOR SERV-*  
2 *ICES.—The Secretary may enter into a competitive grant*  
3 *or contract with a university, academic center, or other ap-*  
4 *propriate professional organization for the collection and*  
5 *analysis of poison center data described in subsection (a)*  
6 *in real time.*

7       “(c) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*  
8 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,*  
9 *\$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.”.*



**Calendar No. 133**

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. 686**

**[Report No. 108-68]**

---

---

**A BILL**

To provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

---

---

JUNE 11, 2003

Reported with an amendment