

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3999

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish the National  
Emergency Family Locator System.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish  
the National Emergency Family Locator System.

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 Emergency  
5       Family Locator Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
2 means the Department of Homeland Security.

3           (2) EMERGENCY.—The term “emergency” has  
4 the meaning given the term in section 102 of the  
5 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
6 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

7           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
8 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

9           (4) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the  
10 National Emergency Family Locator System estab-  
11 lished under section 3(a).

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL EMERGENCY FAMILY LOCATOR SYSTEM.**

13       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish  
15 within the Department the National Family Locator Sys-  
16 tem.

17       (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the System are—

18           (1) to enable individuals displaced by an emer-  
19 gency to provide to the Department the name and  
20 location of the displaced individuals and any other  
21 relevant information using the telephone, the Inter-  
22 net, and other means determined to be appropriate  
23 by the Secretary; and

24           (2) to enable the Department—

1 (A) to compile the information collected  
2 under paragraph (1); and

3 (B) to provide the information collected  
4 and compiled under the System to the family  
5 members of the displaced individuals and law  
6 enforcement officials.

7 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the System  
8 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into account  
9 and, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate into  
10 the System—

11 (1) intermediary-based locator systems such as  
12 the National Next of Kin Registry; and

13 (2) information from existing family locator  
14 databases, such as the Family News Network of the  
15 International Committee of the Red Cross.

16 **SEC. 4. FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLAN PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
17 **PROGRAM.**

18 The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of  
19 Education, shall conduct a public outreach program  
20 through public school districts to educate families on how  
21 to create a family preparedness plan for actions to take  
22 in the event of a disaster in which family members are  
23 separated.

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