

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1834

To amend title XXVIII of the Public Health Service Act to establish a
National Advisory Committee on Seniors and Disasters.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend title XXVIII of the Public Health Service Act
to establish a National Advisory Committee on Seniors
and Disasters.

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 “Protecting Seniors
5 During Disasters Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SENIORS AND**
2 **DISASTERS.**

3 Subtitle B of title XXVIII of the Public Health Serv-
4 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh et seq.) is amended by inserting
5 after section 2811A the following:

6 **“SEC. 2811B. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SEN-**
7 **IORS AND DISASTERS.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
9 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Sec-
10 retary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish an advisory com-
11 mittee to be known as the ‘National Advisory Committee
12 on Seniors and Disasters’ (referred to in this section as
13 the ‘Advisory Committee’).

14 “(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—

15 “(1) provide advice and consultation with re-
16 spect to the activities carried out pursuant to section
17 2814, as applicable and appropriate;

18 “(2) evaluate and provide input with respect to
19 the medical and public health needs of seniors as
20 they relate to preparation for, response to, and re-
21 covery from all-hazards emergencies; and

22 “(3) provide advice and consultation with re-
23 spect to State emergency preparedness and response
24 activities and seniors, including related drills and ex-
25 ercises pursuant to the preparedness goals under
26 section 2802(b).

1 “(c) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee
2 may provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary
3 with respect to seniors and the medical and public health
4 grants and cooperative agreements as applicable to pre-
5 paredness and response activities authorized under this
6 title and title III.

7 “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
9 tion with such other Secretaries as may be appro-
10 priate, shall appoint not to exceed 15 members to
11 the Advisory Committee. In appointing such mem-
12 bers, the Secretary shall ensure that the total mem-
13 bership of the Advisory Committee is an odd num-
14 ber.

15 “(2) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—The Secretary, in
16 consultation with such other Secretaries as may be
17 appropriate, may appoint to the Advisory Committee
18 under paragraph (1) such individuals as may be ap-
19 propriate to perform the duties described in sub-
20 sections (b) and (c), which may include—

21 “(A) the Assistant Secretary for Prepared-
22 ness and Response;

23 “(B) the Director of the Biomedical Ad-
24 vanced Research and Development Authority;

1 “(C) the Director of the Centers for Dis-
2 ease Control and Prevention;

3 “(D) the Commissioner of Food and
4 Drugs;

5 “(E) the Director of the National Insti-
6 tutes of Health;

7 “(F) the Administrator of the Centers for
8 Medicare & Medicaid Services;

9 “(G) the Administrator for Community
10 Living;

11 “(H) the Administrator of the Federal
12 Emergency Management Agency;

13 “(I) the Under Secretary for Health, Vet-
14 erans Health Administration;

15 “(J) at least two non-Federal health care
16 professionals with expertise in medical disaster
17 planning, preparedness, response, or recovery;

18 “(K) at least two representatives from
19 State, local, territorial, or tribal agencies with
20 expertise in disaster planning, preparedness, re-
21 sponse, or recovery; and

22 “(L) representatives from such Federal
23 agencies (such as the Department of Energy
24 and the Department of Homeland Security) as
25 determined necessary to fulfill the duties of the

1 Advisory Committee, as established under sub-
2 sections (b) and (c).

3 “(e) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall
4 meet not less than biannually.

5 “(f) SUNSET.—The Advisory Committee shall termi-
6 nate on September 30, 2021.”.

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