

By Senator Gaetz

4-02140-11

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Senate Resolution

A resolution urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation establishing an effective and comprehensive public alert warning system that embraces state-of-the-art technology and new media and promotes coordination and cooperation between the public and private sectors.

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) superseded the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) and has since been incorporated into the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, a program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and

WHEREAS, the EAS is designed to enable the President of the United States to speak to the nation within 10 minutes following the occurrence of a national emergency, and

WHEREAS, the EAS currently covers AM, FM, and Land Mobile Radio Service; VHF, UHF, and cable television, including low-power stations; digital television and cable providers; Sirius XM satellite radio, IBOC, DAB, and digital radio broadcasters; and Direct TV, Dish Network, and all other DBS providers, and

WHEREAS, rapidly advancing technology and the introduction of new media require that Congress take steps to ensure the capability of the Federal Government to quickly adapt the distribution and content of emergency communications, and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the health and well-being of all Americans that Congress investigate and conduct hearings to inventory, evaluate, and assess public alert and warning capabilities and promote integration of the public alert and

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30 warning systems of federal, state, territorial, tribal, and
31 local governments, and

32 WHEREAS, in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural
33 disaster, or other hazards to public safety, it is essential
34 that the national public alert and warning system reach all
35 Americans regardless of geographic location, language, or
36 disability, and

37 WHEREAS, it is vital to the national interest that Congress
38 establish training and testing protocols for the public alert
39 and warning system and that all levels of government be required
40 to consult, coordinate, and cooperate with the private sector,
41 including emergency response providers, to implement an
42 effective and comprehensive public alert warning system that
43 uses state-of-the-art technology and embraces new media, NOW
44 THEREFORE,

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46 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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48 That Florida Senate urges the Congress of the United States
49 to enact legislation establishing an effective and comprehensive
50 public alert warning system that embraces state-of-the-art
51 technology and new media and promotes coordination and
52 cooperation between the public and private sectors.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
54 presented to the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United
55 States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and the
56 Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to all sitting
57 members of the Florida delegation to the Congress of the United
58 States.