

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8574

To establish an interagency committee on global catastrophic risk, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2022

Mr. McCAUL (for himself and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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

A BILL

To establish an interagency committee on global catastrophic risk, and for other purposes.

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 “Global Catastrophic
5 Risk Management Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **BASIC NEED.**—The term “basic need”—

1 (A) means any good, service, or activity
2 necessary to protect the health, safety, and gen-
3 eral welfare of the civilian population of the
4 United States; and

5 (B) includes—

6 (i) food;

7 (ii) water;

8 (iii) shelter;

9 (iv) basic communication services; and

10 (v) public safety.

11 (2) CATASTROPHIC INCIDENT.—The term “cat-
12 astrophic incident” means an incident, whether
13 caused by human or natural events, in which mul-
14 tiple levels of United States critical infrastructure
15 are destroyed, damaged or interrupted in sufficient
16 magnitude to threaten the health, safety, or general
17 welfare of the civilian population of the United
18 States.

19 (3) COMMITTEE.—The term “committee”
20 means the interagency committee on global cata-
21 strophic risk established under section 3.

22 (4) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term
23 “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given the
24 term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastruc-
25 ture Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

1 (5) EXISTENTIAL RISK.—The term “existential
2 risk” means the risk of human extinction.

3 (6) GLOBAL CATASTROPHIC RISK.—The term
4 “global catastrophic risk” means the risk of events
5 or incidents consequential enough to significantly
6 harm, set back, or destroy human civilization at the
7 global scale.

8 (7) GLOBAL CATASTROPHIC AND EXISTENTIAL
9 THREATS.—The term “global catastrophic and exist-
10 tential threats” means those threats that with vary-
11 ing likelihood can produce consequences severe
12 enough to result in significant harm or destruction
13 of human civilization at the global scale, or lead to
14 human extinction. Examples of global catastrophic
15 and existential threats include severe global
16 pandemics, nuclear war, asteroid and comet impacts,
17 supervolcanoes, sudden and severe changes to the
18 climate, and intentional or accidental threats arising
19 from the use and development of emerging tech-
20 nologies.

21 (8) NATIONAL EXERCISE.—The term “national
22 exercise” means a national exercise described in sec-
23 tion 648(b) of the Post-Katrina Emergency Manage-
24 ment Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 748(b)).

1 (9) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal
2 government” means the recognized governing body
3 of any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation,
4 pueblo, village, community, component band, or com-
5 ponent reservation, that is individually identified (in-
6 cluding parenthetically) in the most recent list pub-
7 lished pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Rec-
8 ognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.
9 5131).

10 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL CATA-**
11 **STROPHIC RISK.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall es-
14 tablish an interagency committee on global catastrophic
15 risk.

16 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The committee shall include sen-
17 ior representatives of—

18 (1) the Assistant to the President for National
19 Security Affairs;

20 (2) the Director of the Office of Science and
21 Technology Policy;

22 (3) the Director of National Intelligence and
23 the Director of the National Intelligence Council;

1 (4) the Secretary of Homeland Security and the
2 Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
3 ment Agency;

4 (5) the Secretary of State and the Under Sec-
5 retary of State for Arms Control and International
6 Security;

7 (6) the Attorney General and the Director of
8 the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

9 (7) the Secretary of Energy, the Under Sec-
10 retary of Energy for Nuclear Security, and the Di-
11 rector of Science;

12 (8) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
13 ices and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness
14 and Response;

15 (9) the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Sec-
16 retary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere,
17 and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Stand-
18 ards and Technology;

19 (10) the Secretary of the Interior and the Di-
20 rector of the United States Geological Survey;

21 (11) the Administrator of the Environmental
22 Protection Agency;

23 (12) the Administrator of the National Aero-
24 nautics and Space Administration;

1 (13) the Director of the National Science Foun-
2 dation;

3 (14) the Secretary of the Treasury;

4 (15) the Chair of the Board of Governors of the
5 Federal Reserve System;

6 (16) the Secretary of Defense; and

7 (17) other stakeholders the President deter-
8 mines appropriate.

9 (c) CHAIRMANSHIP.—The committee shall be co-
10 chaired by a senior representative of the President and
11 the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-
12 agement Agency for Resilience.

13 **SEC. 4. REPORT REQUIRED.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the President, with support
16 from the committee, shall conduct and submit to Congress
17 a detailed assessment of global catastrophic and existen-
18 tial risk.

19 (b) MATTERS COVERED.—The report required under
20 subsection (a) shall include—

21 (1) expert estimates of cumulative global cata-
22 strophic and existential risk in the next 30 years, in-
23 cluding separate estimates for the likelihood of oc-
24 currence and potential consequences;

1 (2) expert-informed analyses of the risk of the
2 most concerning specific global catastrophic and ex-
3 istential threats, including separate estimates, where
4 reasonably feasible and credible, of each threat for
5 its likelihood of occurrence and its potential con-
6 sequences, as well as associated uncertainties;

7 (3) a comprehensive list of potential cata-
8 strophic or existential threats, including even those
9 that may have very low likelihood;

10 (4) technical assessments and lay explanations
11 of the analyzed global catastrophic and existential
12 risks, including their qualitative character and key
13 factors affecting their likelihood of occurrence and
14 potential consequences;

15 (5) an explanation of any factors that limit the
16 ability of the President to assess the risk both cumu-
17 latively and for particular threats, and how those
18 limitations may be overcome through future research
19 or with additional resources, programs, or authori-
20 ties;

21 (6) a review of the effectiveness of intelligence
22 collection, early warning and detection systems, or
23 other functions and programs necessary to evaluate
24 the risk of particular global catastrophic and exis-

1 tential threats, if any exist and as applicable for par-
2 ticular threats;

3 (7) a forecast of if and why global catastrophic
4 and existential risk is likely to increase or decrease
5 significantly in the next 30 years, both qualitatively
6 and quantitatively, as well as a description of associ-
7 ated uncertainties;

8 (8) proposals for how the Federal Government
9 may more adequately assess global catastrophic and
10 existential risk on an ongoing basis in future years;

11 (9) recommendations for legislative actions, as
12 appropriate, to support the evaluation and assess-
13 ment of global catastrophic and existential risk; and

14 (10) other matters deemed appropriate by the
15 President.

16 (c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In producing
17 the report required under subsection (a), the President
18 shall regularly consult with experts on global catastrophic
19 and existential risks, including from non-governmental,
20 academic, and private sector institutions.

21 (d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
22 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include
23 a classified annex.

1 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS AND**
2 **CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT PLANNING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 submission of the report required under section 4, the
5 President shall produce a report on the adequacy of con-
6 tinuity of operations and continuity of government plans
7 based on the assessed global catastrophic and existential
8 risk.

9 (b) MATTERS COVERED.—The report required under
10 subsection (a) shall include—

11 (1) a detailed assessment of the ability of con-
12 tinuity of government and continuity of operations
13 plans and programs, as defined by Executive Order
14 13961, Presidential Policy Directive–40, or suc-
15 cessor policies, to maintain national essential func-
16 tions following global catastrophes, both cumula-
17 tively and for particular threats;

18 (2) an assessment of the need to revise Execu-
19 tive Order 13961, Presidential Policy Directive–40,
20 or successor policies to account for global cata-
21 strophic and existential risk cumulatively or for par-
22 ticular threats;

23 (3) a budget proposal for continuity of govern-
24 ment and continuity of operations programs nec-
25 essary to adequately maintain national essential
26 functions during global catastrophes;

1 (4) recommendations for legislative actions nec-
2 essary to improve continuity of government and con-
3 tinuity of operations plans and programs; and

4 (5) other matters deemed appropriate by the
5 co-chairs.

6 (c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
7 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include
8 a classified annex.

9 **SEC. 6. STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND**
10 **GENERAL WELFARE OF THE CIVILIAN POPU-**
11 **LATION OF THE UNITED STATES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
13 date of enactment of this Act, the President, with support
14 from the committee, shall develop and submit to the ap-
15 propriate committees of Congress a strategy to—

16 (1) provide for the basic needs of the civilian
17 population of the United States that is impacted by
18 catastrophic incidents in the United States;

19 (2) coordinate response efforts with State and
20 local governments, the private sector, and nonprofit
21 relief organizations;

22 (3) promote personal and local readiness and
23 non-reliance on government relief during periods of
24 heightened tension or after catastrophic incidents;
25 and

1 (4) develop international partnerships with al-
2 lied nations for the provision of relief services and
3 goods.

4 (b) ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY.—The strategy
5 developed under subsection (a) shall include a description
6 of—

7 (1) actions the President will take to ensure the
8 basic needs of the civilian population of the United
9 States in a catastrophic incident are met;

10 (2) how the President will coordinate with non-
11 Federal entities to multiply resources and enhance
12 relief capabilities, including—

13 (A) State and local governments;

14 (B) Tribal governments;

15 (C) State disaster relief agencies;

16 (D) State and local disaster relief man-
17 agers;

18 (E) State National Guards;

19 (F) law enforcement and first response en-
20 tities; and

21 (G) nonprofit relief services;

22 (3) actions the President will take to enhance
23 individual resiliency to the effects of a catastrophic
24 incident, which actions shall include—

1 (A) readiness alerts to the public during
2 periods of elevated threat;

3 (B) efforts to enhance domestic supply and
4 availability of critical goods and basic neces-
5 sities; and

6 (C) information campaigns to ensure the
7 public is aware of response plans and services
8 that will be activated when necessary;

9 (4) efforts the President will undertake and
10 agreements the President will seek with inter-
11 national allies to enhance the readiness of the
12 United States to provide for the general welfare;

13 (5) how the strategic plan will be implemented
14 should multiple levels of critical infrastructure be de-
15 stroyed or taken offline entirely for an extended pe-
16 riod of time;

17 (6) how the strategic plan will be made oper-
18 ational within the larger response strategy of the
19 United States; and

20 (7) the authorities the President would impli-
21 cate in responding to a catastrophic incident.

22 (c) ASSUMPTIONS.—In designing the strategy under
23 subsection (a), the President shall account for certain fac-
24 tors to make the strategy operationally viable, including
25 the assumption that—

1 (1) multiple levels of critical infrastructure have
2 been taken offline or destroyed by catastrophic inci-
3 dents or the effects of catastrophic incidents;

4 (2) impacted sectors include—

5 (A) the transportation sector;

6 (B) the communication sector;

7 (C) the energy sector;

8 (D) the healthcare and public health sec-
9 tor;

10 (E) the water and wastewater sector; and

11 (F) the financial sector;

12 (3) State and local governments have been
13 equally affected or made largely inoperable by cata-
14 strophic incidents or the effects of catastrophic inci-
15 dents;

16 (4) the emergency has exceeded the response
17 capabilities of State and local governments under
18 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
19 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and
20 other relevant disaster response laws; and

21 (5) the United States military is sufficiently en-
22 gaged in armed or cyber conflict with State or non-
23 State adversaries, or is otherwise unable to augment
24 domestic response capabilities in a significant man-
25 ner due to a catastrophic incident.

1 (d) EXISTING PLANS.—The President may incor-
2 porate existing contingency plans in the strategy developed
3 under subsection (a) so long as those contingency plans
4 are amended to be operational in accordance with the re-
5 quirements under this section.

6 (e) AVAILABILITY.—The strategy developed under
7 subsection (a) shall be available to the public but may in-
8 clude a classified, or other restricted, annex to be made
9 available to the appropriate committees of Congress and
10 appropriate government entities.

11 **SEC. 7. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**

12 Not later than 90 days after the issuance of the strat-
13 egy required under section 6, the President shall issue a
14 plan to implement and operationalize the strategy, which
15 shall include—

16 (1) steps the President will take to prepare im-
17 plicated entities for mobilization under the strategy;
18 and

19 (2) specific actions the President will take to—

20 (A) ensure the continued readiness of the
21 United States to implement the strategy;

22 (B) educate the public on the strategy and
23 the role individual citizens should play to ensure
24 the objectives of the strategy are met;

1 (C) ensure the objectives of the strategy
2 are met; and

3 (D) ensure foreign adversaries are not able
4 to undermine the operationalization of the
5 strategy.

6 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL RESPONSE EXERCISE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 issuance of the implementation plan required under sec-
9 tion 7, the Department of Homeland Security shall lead
10 a national exercise, in coordination with the committee,
11 to test and enhance the operationalization of the imple-
12 mentation plan.

13 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—A national exercise conducted
14 under this section shall include participation from most
15 or all entities implicated by the strategy required under
16 section 4, including:

17 (1) State, local, and Tribal governments.

18 (2) Information sharing and analysis centers.

19 (3) Owners and operators of critical infrastruc-
20 ture.

21 **SEC. 9. RECOMMENDATIONS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall provide rec-
23 ommendations to Congress for—

24 (1) actions that should be taken to prepare the
25 United States to implement the strategy required

1 under section 6, increase readiness, and address pre-
2 paredness gaps for responding to the impacts of cat-
3 astrophic incidents on citizens of the United States;
4 and

5 (2) additional authorities that should be consid-
6 ered for Federal agencies and the President to more
7 effectively implement the strategy required under
8 section 6.

9 (b) INCLUSION IN REPORTS.—The President may in-
10 clude the recommendations required under subsection (a)
11 in a report submitted under section 10.

12 **SEC. 10. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

13 Not later than 1 year after the date on which Depart-
14 ment of Homeland Security leads the national exercise
15 under section 8, the President shall submit to Congress
16 a report that includes—

17 (1) a description of the efforts of the President
18 to develop and update the strategy required under
19 section 6;

20 (2) a description of the efforts of the President
21 to develop and update the implementation plan re-
22 quired under section 7; and

23 (3) an analysis of the effectiveness and benefit
24 of the national exercise conducted under section 8.

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