

H. R. 2787

FULL TEXT OF BILLS

110th CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

H. R. 2787

2007 H.R. 2787; 110 H.R. 2787; [Retrieve Bill Tracking Report](#)

SYNOPSIS:

A bill to amend the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 to require that weather radios be installed in all manufactured homes manufactured or sold in the United States

DATE OF INTRODUCTION: June 20, 2007

SPONSOR(S):

Sponsor and Cosponsors as of 06/24/2007

ELLSWORTH, BRAD (D-IN) - Sponsor

GRANGER, KAY (R-TX)- Cosponsor

MOORE, DENNIS (D-KS)- Cosponsor

TEXT:

HR 2787 IH

110th CONGRESS

1st Session

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To amend the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 to require that weather radios be installed in all manufactured homes manufactured or sold in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 20, 2007

Mr. Ellsworth (for himself, Ms. Granger, and Mr. Moore of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 to require that weather radios be installed in all manufactured homes manufactured or sold in the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "CJ's Home Protection Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that--

- (1) nearly 20,000,000 Americans live in manufactured homes, which often provide a more accessible and affordable way for many families to buy their own homes;
- (2) manufactured housing plays a vital role in providing housing for low- and moderate-income families in the United States;
- (3) according to the Economic Statistics Report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in April 2006 (5th Edition), residents of mobile homes remain at risk from tornados, as over 40 percent of resulting fatalities occur in mobile homes, and the fatality rate for residents of mobile homes is more than 10 times greater than that for residents of permanent homes;
- (4) NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from a nearby National Weather Service (NWS) office, and broadcasts NWS warnings, watches, forecasts, and other all-hazard information 24 hours a day;
- (5) the operator of a mobile home community should be encouraged to provide a safe place of shelter for park residents or a plan for the evacuation of park residents to a safe place of shelter within a reasonable distance of the park for use by park residents in times of severe weather, including tornadoes and high winds; and local municipalities should be encouraged to require approval of these plans;
- (6) twice each year, when Americans change their clocks for daylight savings, the operator of a mobile home community should be encouraged to provide a written reminder to the owners of all manufactured homes in the mobile home community to replace the batteries in all weather radios and smoke detectors contained in their manufactured homes; and
- (7) weather radio manufacturers should include, in the

packaging of weather radios, a written reminder to replace the batteries twice each year and written instructions on how to do so.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL MANUFACTURED HOME CONSTRUCTION AND SAFETY STANDARD.

Section 604 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) Weather Radios.

"(1) Construction and safety standard. The Federal manufactured home construction and safety standards established by the Secretary under this section shall require that each manufactured home delivered for sale shall be supplied with a weather radio inside the manufactured home that--

"(A) is capable of broadcasting emergency information relating to local weather conditions;

"(B) is equipped with a tone alarm;

"(C) is equipped with Specific Alert Message Encoding, or SAME technology; and

"(D) complies with Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) Standard 2009-A (or current revision thereof) Performance Specification for Public Alert Receivers.

"(2) Liability protection. Any reminder, assistance, or instructions provided by an operator of a mobile home community concerning the function of a weather radio or smoke detector contained in a manufactured home shall not subject the operator, an owner or employee of the mobile home community, or the mobile home manufacturer to liability for the functionality of that weather radio or smoke detector."

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall establish the Federal manufactured home construction and safety standard required by the amendment made by section 3 of this Act by order in accordance with section 604(b)(5) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403(b)(5)), which shall take effect as provided in section 604(c) of such Act.

SUBJECT: MODULAR & MANUFACTURED HOUSING (95%); CONSTRUCTION (93%); WEATHER (91%); MOBILE HOME MFG (91%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (90%); HOME SECURITY (90%); SECURITY & ALARM SYSTEMS (90%); HOUSING AUTHORITIES (78%); CONSUMER ELECTRONICS MFG (78%); RADIO BROADCAST INDUSTRY (78%); WIRELESS & BROADCAST EQUIPMENT

MFG (78%); FAMILY (78%); EARTH & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE (77%); BANKING & FINANCE (73%); AUDIO & VIDEO EQUIPMENT MFG (73%); PUBLIC HOUSING (73%); BANKING & FINANCE AGENCIES (72%); STATISTICS (71%); CITIES (69%);

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June 22, 2007 Friday

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS; Pg. 1C Vol. 120 No. 101

LENGTH: 568 words

HEADLINE: Bill would mandate weather radios Bachus backs plan to add time to find shelter in storms

BYLINE: MARY ORNDORFF News Washington correspondent

BODY:

WASHINGTON - All new manufactured homes would have to come with a weather alert radio under legislation introduced this week by Rep. Spencer Bachus and others.

'I was almost stunned that such a wonderful idea as this, that we hadn't done it before,' Bachus said Thursday.

Named for a 2-year-old boy killed in tornado in Indiana in 2005, C.J.'s Home Protection Act would change the federal safety standards for manufactured homes and make the industry pay for the receivers and their installation before the homes are delivered.

'I say it makes the mobile home that much more valuable,' said Bachus, a Vestavia Hills Republican who was wearing a large lapel button with C.J.'s picture on it.

The legislation was initiated by C.J.'s parents, who lost three family members in the 2005 storm that killed 25 people, 20 of them in the same mobile home park.

'It's important for me to do this. I believe in this,' said Kathryn Martin. 'If my family had that warning, they would've been here today. This just makes sense.'

The bill is modeled after a similar state law recently approved in Indiana. It was introduced by U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth, D-Ind., who at the time was the sheriff who responded to the scene where C.J. Martin died.

'It's a public safety issue, not a Big Brother issue, and it's not us trying to force things on people,' Ellsworth said. 'It's trying to give families . . . that extra little chance, an extra few moments.'

The receivers cost between \$20 and \$200, according to the National Weather Service, depending on the features, the manufacturer and the retailer.

In addition to being a leading state in the construction of manufactured housing, Alabama also has about 320,000 of them in use, representing about 16 percent of all housing in the state.

A spokesman for the industry took issue with the legislation singling out manufactured homes.

'We support broadening the legislation to cover every occupied structure located in areas prone to severe wind events such as tornadoes and hurricanes,' said Bruce Savage, a spokesman for the Manufactured Housing Institute, a national industry organization.

Bachus, who several years ago helped pass a law allowing federal grants to be used for storm shelters in manufactured housing communities, said he was expecting industry opposition.

'If you have a basement, it offers a very good chance of protection. If you have an interior room, it offers good protection, particularly an interior bathroom,' Bachus said. 'And a mobile home just doesn't have any of those things.'

About 20 million Americans live in manufactured homes, according to the proposed legislation. The bill also cites a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report that the fatality rate for residents of mobile homes is more than 10 times greater than for permanent homes.

'If you've got a shelter and you've got a warning, this is the final piece of the puzzle,' Bachus said.

The bill now will be reviewed by the House Financial Services Committee. Bachus is its top Republican.

EMAIL: morndorff@bhamnews.com

DETAILS

Alabama in 2005 was the leading state for manufactured home construction, according to the Alabama Manufactured Housing Association. Its Web site reports that also in 2005, the industry:

Had a \$1.2 billion economic impact on the state.

Provided 15,000 jobs.

Produced 17,704 manufactured homes in Alabama; 70 percent of them were sold out of state.

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