

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 861

To amend the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 to require an emergency notification meeting in the event of the release of an extremely hazardous substance from a facility, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. CASTEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 to require an emergency notification meeting in the event of the release of an extremely hazardous substance from a facility, 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 “Alerting Localities of
5 Environmental Risks and Threats Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC MEETINGS ADDED.**

2 (a) EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION MEETING.—Section
3 304(b) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-
4 To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11004(b)) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

6 “(3) PUBLIC MEETING.—Not later than 72
7 hours after a release which requires notice under
8 subsection (a), the owner or operator of the applica-
9 ble facility shall—

10 “(A) publish a notice in a local newspaper,
11 and post such notice at a local library and other
12 local government buildings and on the public
13 website for the facility, if any, with at least 24
14 hours notice, of a public meeting, including—

15 “(i) the date of such meeting;

16 “(ii) the time of such meeting; and

17 “(iii) the location of such meeting;

18 and

19 “(B) hold such meeting, providing, con-
20 sistent with section 322, the information re-
21 quired under paragraph (2), to the extent such
22 information is known at the time of the meeting
23 and so long as no delay in responding to the
24 emergency results.”.

25 (b) ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING.—Subtitle A of the
26 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act

1 of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.) is amended by adding
2 at the end the following new section:

3 **“SEC. 306. ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING.**

4 “Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
5 of this section, and annually thereafter, the owner or oper-
6 ator of a facility subject to the requirements of this sub-
7 title shall—

8 “(1) publish a notice in a local newspaper, at
9 least 7 days in advance, of a public meeting, includ-
10 ing—

11 “(A) the date of such meeting;

12 “(B) the time of such meeting; and

13 “(C) the location of such meeting; and

14 “(2) hold such meeting, providing, consistent
15 with section 322—

16 “(A) the chemical name of each substance
17 on the list published under section 302(a) that
18 was present at such facility, in an amount in
19 excess of the threshold planning quantity estab-
20 lished for such substance under such section, at
21 any time in the preceding calendar year;

22 “(B) an estimate of the maximum amount
23 of each such substance present at such facility
24 during the preceding calendar year; and

1 “(C) the details of the methods and proce-
2 dures to be followed to respond to a release of
3 such a substance pursuant to the applicable
4 emergency plan prepared under section
5 303(c).”.

6 (c) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 325(c)(1) of the Emer-
7 gency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of
8 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11045(c)(1)) is amended by striking
9 “section 312” and inserting “section 306, 312,”.

10 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
11 in section 300(b) of the Emergency Planning and Commu-
12 nity Right-To-Know Act of 1986 is amended by adding
13 after the item relating to section 305 the following:

“Sec. 306. Annual public meeting.”.

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