SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

The Committee on Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications met, pursuant to notice, in open markup session, a quorum being present, on Thursday, December 8, 2011, in 311 Cannon House Office Building to consider the following measures: H.R. 1129, the “Homeland Security Grant Management Improvement Act;” H.R. 1411, the “Metropolitan Medical Response System Program Act of 2011;” and H.R. 3563, the “Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2011.”

The Subcommittee took the following actions:

H.R. 1129, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to prohibit requiring the use of a specified percentage of a grant under the Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program for specific purposes, and for other purposes; was ordered to be reported to the Full Committee with a favorable recommendation, amended, by voice vote.

The Subcommittee adopted H.R. 1129, as amended by voice vote.

The following amendments were offered:

An amendment offered by Mr. Clarke (#1); At the end of the bill add a new section entitled “Sec. ___. Effect of Homeland Security Grant Reductions on Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities.”; was AGREED TO by voice vote.

An amendment offered by Ms. Hochul (#2); At the end of the bill add a new section entitled “Sec. ___. Treatment of Buffalo-Niagra Region as Tier I Area.”; was NOT AGREED TO by voice vote.

H.R. 1441, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure continuation of the Metropolitan Medical Response System Program, and for other purposes; was ordered to be reported to the Full Committee with a favorable recommendation, amended, by voice vote.

The Subcommittee adopted H.R. 1441, as amended, by voice vote.

The following amendments were offered:
An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute offered by Mr. Bilirakis (#1); was AGREED TO, as amended, by voice vote.

An amendment offered by Ms. Richardson to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (#1A); Page 3, line 21, strike “and” after the semicolon.

Page 3, after line 21, insert a new subparagraph “(J)”; was AGREED TO by voice vote.

H.R. 3563, to authorize the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to ensure the timely and effective distribution of alerts and warnings; was ordered to be reported to the Full Committee with a favorable recommendation, amended, by voice vote.

The Subcommittee adopted H.R. 3563, as amended by voice vote.

The following amendments were offered:

An amendment offered by Ms. Richardson (#1); Page 5, strike lines 1 through 2 and insert a new paragraph “(6) conduct a nationwide test of the public alert and warning system not less than once every two years in coordination with State, local, tribal, and other homeland security stakeholders; and; was WITHDRAWN by unanimous consent.

A unanimous consent request by Ms. Richardson to withdraw her amendment, was not objected to.

An amendment offered by Ms. Richardson (#2); Page 4, after line 19, insert a new paragraph (and redesignate the subsequent paragraphs accordingly) “(4) ensure that ongoing training for receiving and dissemination public alert and warning system messages utilizing advanced technologies is provided to State, local, tribal, and other homeland security stakeholders involved in the transmission of such messages.”; was AGREED TO by voice vote.

Without objection the Chair authorized staff to make technical and conforming corrections to the measures considered today.