

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3168
OFFERED BY MR. Babin (TX)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Earthquake
3 Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of
4 2026”.

5 SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF FINDINGS.

6 Section 2 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
7 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)—

9 (A) by striking “50 States, and the Com-
10 monwealth of Puerto Rico,” and inserting
11 “States and Tribal jurisdictions”;

12 (B) by striking “of them” and inserting
13 “States”;

14 (C) by striking “Tennessee,” and inserting
15 “, Tennessee,”; and

16 (D) by striking “A large portion of the
17 population of the United States lives in areas
18 vulnerable to earthquake hazards” and insert-

1 ing “Almost half of the United States popu-
2 lation resides in areas that are at risk or expe-
3 riencing a damaging earthquake during the 50-
4 year period beginning on the date of the enact-
5 ment of the National Earthquake Hazards Re-
6 duction Program Reauthorization Act of 2026”;
7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) by inserting after the first sentence the
9 following: “A 2023 report by the Federal Emer-
10 gency Management Agency and the United
11 States Geological Survey (FEMA P-366) esti-
12 mates the annualized earthquake losses to the
13 national building stock is \$14,700,000,000 per
14 year and the total economic exposure to earth-
15 quake losses (buildings and contents) across the
16 nation is \$107,800,000,000,000.”; and

17 (B) in the third sentence—

18 (i) by striking “and construction” and
19 inserting “, construction, evaluation, and
20 retrofitting”; and

21 (ii) by striking “and (E)” and insert-
22 ing the following: “(E) inventories of build-
23 ings and infrastructure with high seismic
24 risk, especially those that are critical to
25 community resilience, (F) programs that

1 require or incentivize replacement or ret-
2 rofit of existing buildings and infrastruc-
3 ture with high seismic risk, especially those
4 that are critical to community resilience,
5 and (G)’’;

6 (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting ‘‘Tribal,’’
7 after ‘‘local,’’;

8 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking ‘‘could pro-
9 vide’’ and all that follows through the period at the
10 end and inserting ‘‘is necessary to provide the sci-
11 entific understanding needed to improve and expand
12 the earthquake early warning system.’’;

13 (5) in paragraph (8), by striking ‘‘cave-ins’’ and
14 inserting ‘‘collapse’’;

15 (6) in paragraph (9)—

16 (A) in the first sentence, by striking ‘‘and
17 local’’ and inserting ‘‘local, and Tribal govern-
18 ment’’;

19 (B) in the second sentence, by striking
20 ‘‘transfer knowledge and information to’’ and
21 inserting ‘‘exchange knowledge and information
22 between’’; and

23 (C) in the third sentence, by striking
24 ‘‘specifications, criteria’’ and inserting ‘‘guide-
25 lines, codes, standards’’;

1 (7) in paragraph (12)—

2 (A) in the second sentence—

3 (i) by striking “When earthquakes
4 occur, the built environment is generally”
5 and inserting “Relatively newer buildings
6 and infrastructure have generally been”;
7 and

8 (ii) by striking “and is” and inserting
9 “when earthquakes occur, but most are”;
10 and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following: “In
12 addition, buildings and infrastructure built to
13 older codes and standards may pose significant
14 risk of injury, loss of life, or irreparable dam-
15 age. A 2021 report submitted to Congress pur-
16 suant to section 8(b), as amended by section 5
17 of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction
18 Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public
19 Law 115–307), by the Federal Emergency
20 Management Agency and the National Institute
21 of Standards and Technology (FEMA P2090/
22 NST SP–1254) provides recommendations for
23 improving post-earthquake functional recovery
24 time of the built environment to support com-
25 munity resilience goals and many of these rec-

1 ommendations still need to be implemented.”;

2 and

3 (8) in paragraph (13)—

4 (A) in the first sentence, by inserting “in
5 2011” after “a study”;

6 (B) in the second sentence, by inserting
7 “(in 2011 dollars)” after “\$300,000,000”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “The cost of actual seismic retrofits to reduce
10 known risks is not included in such valuation.”.

11 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF PURPOSE.**

12 Section 3 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
13 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7702) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)—

15 (A) by striking “and local” and inserting
16 “, local, and Tribal government”; and

17 (B) by striking “locations and structures”
18 and inserting “buildings and infrastructure”;

19 (2) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by striking “and construction” and in-
21 serting “, construction, evaluation, and retro-
22 fitting”; and

23 (B) by inserting “housing and care facili-
24 ties for vulnerable populations,” after “occu-
25 pancy buildings,”; and

1 (3) in paragraph (4)—

2 (A) by striking “and local” and inserting
3 “, local, and Tribal government”; and

4 (B) by striking “encourage consideration
5 of” and inserting “incorporate”.

6 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 4 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
8 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7703) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including
10 secondary effects such as earthquake-caused
11 tsunamis” after “earthquakes”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(11) The term ‘Tribal government’ has the
14 meaning given the term ‘tribal government’ in sec-
15 tion 421 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
16 (2 U.S.C. 658).

17 “(12) The term ‘functional recovery’ means a
18 post-earthquake performance state in which a build-
19 ing or lifeline infrastructure system is maintained,
20 or restored, to safely and adequately support the
21 basic intended functions associated with the pre-
22 earthquake use or occupancy of a building, or the
23 pre-earthquake service level of a lifeline infrastruc-
24 ture system.

1 “(13) The term ‘earthquake forecast’ means a
2 statement of probabilities that 1 or more earth-
3 quakes within a clearly specified magnitude range
4 may occur within a specified time interval and geo-
5 graphic region.”.

6 **SEC. 5. IMPROVEMENTS TO NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZ-**
7 **ARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM.**

8 (a) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Subsection (a)(2) of sec-
9 tion 5 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977
10 (42 U.S.C. 7704) is amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (A) in the matter before clause (i)—

13 (i) by striking “and local” and insert-
14 ing “local, and Tribal”; and

15 (ii) by striking “and constructing”
16 and inserting “, designing, constructing,
17 evaluating, and retrofitting”;

18 (B) by amending clause (ii) to read as fol-
19 lows:

20 “(ii) development of standards, guide-
21 lines, and voluntary standards, guidelines,
22 and consensus codes for earthquake haz-
23 ards reduction for buildings, structures,
24 and lifeline infrastructure, including post-
25 earthquake recovery-based performance ob-

1 jectives that address reoccupancy and
2 downtime of community-prioritized build-
3 ings, structures, and services provided by
4 lifeline infrastructure;”;

5 (C) in clause (iii), by striking “and haz-
6 ards reduction; and” and inserting “functional
7 recovery, and other hazards reduction topics;”;

8 (D) in clause (iv)—

9 (i) by inserting “and maintaining”
10 after “publishing”;

11 (ii) by inserting “in coordination with
12 the National Tsunami Hazards Mitigation
13 Program, tsunami susceptibility,” after
14 “liquefaction susceptibility,”; and

15 (iii) by striking “; and” and inserting
16 a semicolon; and

17 (E) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(v) subject to the availability of
19 funds, development of best practices and
20 guidelines to create an inventory of and
21 conduct seismic performance evaluations of
22 buildings, structures, and lifeline infra-
23 structure with high seismic risk, especially
24 those that are critical to community resil-
25 ience; and

1 “(vi) subject to the availability of
2 funds, the provision of technical assistance
3 upon request by a State, local, or Tribal
4 government regarding—

5 “(I) the creation of an inventory
6 of buildings, structures, and lifeline
7 infrastructure;

8 “(II) the performance of seismic
9 performance evaluations; and

10 “(III) cost-effective best practices
11 for retrofitting existing buildings,
12 structures, and lifeline infrastruc-
13 ture.”;

14 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and”
15 and inserting a semicolon;

16 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
17 paragraph (E); and

18 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(D) improve the understanding of—

21 “(i) the multiple hazards associated
22 with earthquakes, including liquefaction,
23 tsunamis, landslides, and structural fires;
24 and

1 “(ii) potential mitigation measures for
2 such hazards; and”.

3 (b) DUTIES OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COM-
4 MITTEE ON EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION.—Sub-
5 section (a)(3)(D)(ii) of such section is amended—

6 (1) in subclause (V), by inserting “and associ-
7 ated secondary hazards” before the period at the
8 end; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(VIII) Coordinating with the
11 Chair of the Federal Communications
12 Commission on the timely broad-
13 casting of emergency alerts generated
14 by the earthquake early warning sys-
15 tem.”.

16 (c) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Subsection (a)(4)(A) of
17 such section is amended by striking “under paragraph
18 (3)(D)(i)(I)” each place it appears and inserting “under
19 paragraph (3)(D)(ii)(I)”.

20 (d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Subsection (a)(5)(A) of
21 such section is amended—

22 (1) by inserting “the Chair of the Scientific
23 Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee and” after
24 “including”; and

1 (2) by striking “and local government” and in-
2 serting “, local, and Tribal governments”.

3 (e) LEAD AGENCY FOR RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRO-
4 GRAM AGENCIES.—Subsection (b)(1) of such section is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and
7 local” and all that follows through the semicolon at
8 the end and inserting the following: “local, and Trib-
9 al governments, national standards and model build-
10 ing code organizations, architects and engineers, and
11 others with a role in planning, designing, con-
12 structing, evaluating, and retrofitting buildings and
13 lifeline infrastructure;”;

14 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and
15 (D) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

16 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(C) improve the understanding of earth-
19 quake-caused fires and support the development
20 of engineering tools and construction methods
21 that mitigate the risk of fire following earth-
22 quakes;

23 “(D) develop, in coordination with the Ad-
24 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
25 ment Agency, best practices and guidelines for

1 a State, local, or Tribal government to create
2 an inventory of buildings, structures, or lifeline
3 infrastructure that are critical to community re-
4 silience or otherwise have high seismic risk;

5 “(E) provide, in coordination with the Ad-
6 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
7 ment Agency, technical assistance to a State,
8 local, or Tribal government requesting such as-
9 sistance with respect to the creation of an in-
10 ventory of buildings, structures, or lifeline in-
11 frastructure;”.

12 (f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY
13 MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—Subsection (b)(2) of such sec-
14 tion is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

16 (A) in clause (i)—

17 (i) by inserting “and Tribal govern-
18 ments” after “States”;

19 (ii) by inserting “and performance
20 evaluations” after “safety inspections”;
21 and

22 (iii) by inserting “and improve post-
23 earthquake functional recovery” after
24 “seismic safety”;

1 (B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, including
2 Tribal entities,” after “appropriate audiences”;

3 (C) in clause (iii)—

4 (i) by striking “of seismic resistant”
5 and inserting “to all appropriate audi-
6 ences, including Tribal governments, of”;
7 and

8 (ii) by inserting “that enhance seismic
9 safety, improve post-earthquake functional
10 recovery, and reduce losses from earth-
11 quakes” after “and lifeline infrastructure”;

12 (D) in clause (iv)—

13 (i) in striking “and local” and insert-
14 ing “, local, and Tribal”; and

15 (ii) by striking “; and” and inserting
16 a semicolon;

17 (E) by redesignating clause (v) as clause
18 (vi); and

19 (F) by inserting after clause (iv) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(v) shall provide technical assistance
22 to State, local, or Tribal governmental en-
23 tities in the creation of evacuation plans in
24 the event of an earthquake, landslide, tsu-

1 nami, or other earthquake-related hazard;
2 and”; and

3 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

4 (A) in the subparagraph heading, by in-
5 serting “AND TRIBAL” after “STATE”;

6 (B) in the matter before clause (i), by in-
7 serting “or Tribal government” after “State”;
8 and

9 (C) in clause (i), by striking “safety” and
10 inserting “performance, community resilience,
11 or public awareness”.

12 (g) RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNITED STATES GEOLOGI-
13 CAL SURVEY.—Subsection (b)(3) of such section is
14 amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and
16 local” and inserting “, local, and Tribal”;

17 (2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, the
18 Chair of the Federal Communications Commission,”
19 after “Agency”;

20 (3) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
21 through (K) as subparagraphs (I) through (P), re-
22 spectively;

23 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(D) coordinate with the Administrator of
2 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
3 istration and the Administrator of the Federal
4 Emergency Management Agency on data shar-
5 ing and resource allocation to support a timely
6 response to oceanic earthquakes and tsunamis;

7 “(E) in consultation with the Chair of the
8 Federal Communications Commission, ensure
9 that earthquake alerts and early warnings are
10 broadcast as rapidly and reliably as possible, in
11 the predominant languages in the affected re-
12 gion, to ensure maximum warning time for
13 nearby persons;

14 “(F) expand the earthquake early warning
15 system within and to additional high risk haz-
16 ard areas, including making improvements as
17 practicable to improve detection and increase
18 the time between warning messages and percep-
19 tible ground motion;

20 “(G) coordinating with affected State and
21 Tribal governments on earthquake early warn-
22 ing system improvements;

23 “(H) issue earthquake forecasts, when ap-
24 propriate, for aftershocks associated with sig-
25 nificant earthquakes in the United States;”;

1 (5) in subparagraph (I), as redesignated by
2 paragraph (3), by inserting “the Chair of the Fed-
3 eral Communications Commission,” after “Agency,”;

4 (6) in subparagraph (L), as redesignated by
5 paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a
6 semicolon;

7 (7) in subparagraph (M), as redesignated by
8 paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and
9 inserting a semicolon; and

10 (8) in subparagraph (O), as redesignated by
11 paragraph (3), by inserting “maps of natural haz-
12 ards associated with earthquakes and” after “includ-
13 ing”.

14 (h) RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL SCIENCE
15 FOUNDATION.—Subsection (b)(4)(A) of such section is
16 amended—

17 (1) in clause (iii), by inserting “including up-
18 dated tsunami and liquefaction risk maps,” after
19 “maps,”; and

20 (2) in clause (vii), by striking “Historically
21 Black Colleges and Universities and those serving
22 large proportions of Hispanics, Native Americans,
23 Asian-Pacific Americans, and other underrep-
24 resented populations” and inserting “institutions de-

1 scribed in section 371(a) of the Higher Education
2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))”.

3 **SEC. 6. SEISMIC PERFORMANCE PROPERTY STANDARDS.**

4 Section 947 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Af-
5 fordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 7704a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “safety” both
7 places it appears and inserting “performance”; and

8 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “shake-related
9 property damage” and inserting “seismic-related
10 property damage to improve the post-earthquake
11 functional recovery time”.

12 **SEC. 7. SEISMIC STANDARDS.**

13 Section 8 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
14 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7705b) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “under para-
16 graph (1)” and inserting “under subsection (a)”;
17 and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—
20 Each Program agency, as part of their Program respon-
21 sibilities, shall implement, within the Program activities
22 authorized by this Act, the applicable recommendations in
23 the report submitted pursuant to subsection (b) to im-
24 prove the performance of the built environment in terms

1 of post-earthquake reoccupancy and functional recovery
2 time.

3 “(d) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—

4 “(1) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO INTERAGENCY CO-
5 ORDINATING COMMITTEE.—No later than September
6 30, 2027, and not less frequently than once every 2
7 years thereafter, each Program agency shall submit
8 to the Interagency Coordinating Committee a report
9 on activities and progress made to support, promote,
10 or advance the implementation of the recommenda-
11 tions included in the report submitted pursuant to
12 subsection (b).

13 “(2) INCLUSION IN BIENNIAL REPORTS OF
14 INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—The
15 Interagency Coordinating Committee shall include
16 the information received under paragraph (1) in
17 each biennial report submitted under section 5(a)(4),
18 including consideration of a prioritized work plan to
19 coordinate activities among the Program agencies
20 and the necessary Program budget to fully imple-
21 ment the recommendations described in paragraph
22 (1).”.

1 **SEC. 8. IMPROVEMENTS TO POST-EARTHQUAKE INVES-**
2 **TIGATIONS PROGRAM.**

3 Section 11 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
4 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7705e) is amended, in the matter be-
5 fore paragraph (1)—

6 (1) in the first sentence, by inserting “domestic
7 and international” after “investigate major”; and

8 (2) in the fifth sentence, by inserting “Federal
9 Emergency Management” before “Agency”.

10 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PROGRAM.—Sub-
12 section (a)(8) of section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards
13 Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706) is amended—

14 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “, and”
15 and inserting a comma; and

16 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(K) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2027,

19 “(L) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2028,

20 “(M) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2029,

21 “(N) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2030, and

22 “(O) \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2031.”.

23 (b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Sub-
24 section (b)(2) of such section is amended—

25 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “; and”
26 and inserting a semicolon;

1 (2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period
2 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(K) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2027, of
5 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
6 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
7 tional Seismic System established under section
8 13;

9 “(L) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2028, of
10 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
11 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
12 tional Seismic System established under section
13 13;

14 “(M) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2029, of
15 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
16 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
17 tional Seismic System established under section
18 13;

19 “(N) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2030, of
20 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made
21 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
22 tional Seismic System established under section
23 13; and

24 “(O) \$92,427,000 for fiscal year 2031, of
25 which not less than \$36,000,000 shall be made

1 available for completion of the Advanced Na-
2 tional Seismic System established under section
3 13.”.

4 (c) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—Subsection
5 (c)(2) of such section is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “, and”
7 and inserting a comma;

8 (2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period
9 at the end and inserting a comma; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(K) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2027,

12 “(L) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2028,

13 “(M) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2029,

14 “(N) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2030,

15 and

16 “(O) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.”.

17 (d) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
18 TECHNOLOGY.—Subsection (d)(2) of such section is
19 amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “, and”
21 and inserting a comma;

22 (2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period
23 at the end and inserting a comma; and

24 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(K) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2027,
2 “(L) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2028,
3 “(M) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2029,
4 “(N) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2030, and
5 “(O) \$5,900,000 for fiscal year 2031.”.

6 **SEC. 10. FUNDING CONTROLS.**

7 Section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act
8 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706), as amended by section 9, is
9 further amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(e) FUNDING.—Funds used by an agency to carry
11 out this Act may, as provided in advance in appropriations
12 Acts, only come from amounts authorized to be appro-
13 priated to that agency.

14 “(f) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any amount appro-
15 priated to an account of a Federal agency for the Federal
16 agency to carry out a responsibility under this Act that
17 is cancelled pursuant to section 1552(a) of title 31, United
18 States Code, shall be transferred to the general fund of
19 the Treasury and be applied to deficit reduction.”.

