

Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2018

Senator Durbin

Background

As states experience more frequent urbanization, sections of many urban communities have seen a rise in flooding activity. This urbanization, coupled with frequent heavy rain, melting snow, and inadequate or outdated storm sewers has only worsened the growing threat of urban flooding.

Many of these urban areas that experience reoccurring flooding are often outside of regulatory floodplains, and subsequently not covered by the National Flood Insurance Program. To better protect home and business owners from facing clean-up and maintenance costs, a stronger effort to learn about flood mapping potential in these areas is necessary to implement effective preventative solutions in the long term.

Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act
Senator Durbin's '*Flood Mapping Modernization*' bill would establish a pilot grant program through FEMA to allow cities to develop better methods for mapping, understanding, and mitigating urban flooding.

The program would engage a diverse group of cities to enhance flood mapping technology. Twelve total cities, varying in size from 50,000 to 800,000+ residents, would be able to apply for the pilot program, which would select three participant cities per year for four years. The data and lessons learned from the pilots will be made publicly available to improve urban flooding mitigation.

Specifically, the bill would do the following:

- Authorize \$1.2M for FY 2019 and \$4.3M for FY 2020-2022 for grants to be made available to states or local governmental authorities in recognized urban areas.
- Require FEMA to prioritize entities that propose technology-based mapping tools that can be understood and made transparent to the public while conveying urban flood risk.
- Provide recipients with 18 months to conduct their projects upon receiving the grant, and require them to submit a report on lessons learned to FEMA within 30 months.
- Require a report from FEMA on lessons learned within two years of the first grant disbursement, and require a subsequent report every two years until the end of the program.

Representative Mike Quigley will be introducing the companion legislation in the House of Representatives.