

By: Senator(s) Moran

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2796

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 33-15-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO ENTER
3 INTO A CONTRACT WITH Q-RISQ ANALYTICS FOR A PILOT PROGRAM TO
4 PROVIDE LIVE STORM IMPACT DATA TO ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
5 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 33-15-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 33-15-14. (1) The agency is responsible for maintaining a
10 comprehensive statewide program of emergency management. The
11 agency is responsible for coordination with efforts of the federal
12 government with other departments and agencies of state
13 government, with county and municipal governments and school
14 boards and with private agencies that have a role in emergency
15 management.

16 (2) In performing its duties under this article, the agency
17 shall:

18 (a) Work with the Governor, or his representative, in
19 preparing a State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan of this



20 state, which shall be integrated into and coordinated with the
21 emergency management plans of the federal government and of other
22 states to the fullest possible extent, and to coordinate the
23 preparation of plans and programs for emergency management by the
24 political subdivisions of the state, such local plans to be
25 integrated into and coordinated with the emergency plan and
26 program of this state. The plan must contain provisions to ensure
27 that the state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major and
28 catastrophic disasters, and the agency shall work closely with
29 local governments and agencies and organizations with emergency
30 management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the plan.
31 The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan will be
32 operations oriented and:

33 (i) Include an evacuation component that includes
34 specific regional and interregional planning provisions and
35 promotes intergovernmental coordination of evacuation activities.
36 This component must, at a minimum: ensure coordination pertaining
37 to evacuees crossing county lines; set forth procedures for
38 directing people caught on evacuation routes to safe shelter; and
39 establish policies and strategies for emergency medical
40 evacuations.

41 (ii) Include a shelter component that includes
42 specific regional and interregional planning provisions and
43 promotes coordination of shelter activities between the public,
44 private and nonprofit sectors. This component must, at a minimum:



45 contain strategies to ensure the availability of adequate public
46 shelter space in each region of the state; establish strategies
47 for refuge-of-last-resort programs; provide strategies to assist
48 local emergency management efforts to ensure that adequate
49 staffing plans exist for all shelters, including medical and
50 security personnel; provide for a postdisaster communications
51 system for public shelters; establish model shelter guidelines for
52 operations, registration, inventory, power generation capability,
53 information management and staffing; and set forth policy guidance
54 for sheltering people with special needs.

55 (iii) Include a postdisaster response and recovery
56 component that includes specific regional and interregional
57 planning provisions and promotes intergovernmental coordination of
58 postdisaster response and recovery activities. This component
59 must provide for postdisaster response and recovery strategies
60 according to whether a disaster is minor, major or catastrophic.
61 The postdisaster response and recovery component must, at a
62 minimum: establish the structure of the state's postdisaster
63 response and recovery organization; establish procedures for
64 activating the state's plan; set forth policies used to guide
65 postdisaster response and recovery activities; describe the chain
66 of command during the postdisaster response and recovery period;
67 describe initial and continuous postdisaster response and recovery
68 actions; identify the roles and responsibilities of each involved
69 agency and organization; provide for a comprehensive



70 communications plan; establish procedures for monitoring mutual
71 aid agreements; provide for rapid impact assessment teams; ensure
72 the availability of an effective statewide urban search and rescue
73 program coordinated with the fire services; ensure the existence
74 of a comprehensive statewide medical care and relief plan
75 administered by the State Department of Health; and establish
76 systems for coordinating volunteers and accepting and distributing
77 donated funds and goods.

78 (iv) Include additional provisions addressing
79 aspects of preparedness, response and recovery, as determined
80 necessary by the agency.

81 (v) Address the need for coordinated and
82 expeditious deployment of state resources, including the
83 Mississippi National Guard. In the case of an imminent major
84 disaster, procedures should address predeployment of the
85 Mississippi National Guard, and, in the case of an imminent
86 catastrophic disaster, procedures should address predeployment of
87 the Mississippi National Guard and the United States Armed Forces.
88 This subparagraph (v) does not authorize the agency to call out
89 and deploy the Mississippi National Guard, which authority and
90 determination rests solely with the Governor.

91 (vi) Establish a system of communications and
92 warning to ensure that the state's population and emergency
93 management agencies are warned of developing emergency situations
94 and can communicate emergency response decisions.



95 (vii) Establish guidelines and schedules for
96 annual exercises that evaluate the ability of the state and its
97 political subdivisions to respond to minor, major and catastrophic
98 disasters and support local emergency management agencies. Such
99 exercises shall be coordinated with local governments and, to the
100 extent possible, the federal government.

101 (viii) 1. Assign lead and support
102 responsibilities to state agencies and personnel for emergency
103 support functions and other support activities.

104 2. The agency shall prepare an interim
105 postdisaster response and recovery component that substantially
106 complies with the provisions of this paragraph (a). Each state
107 agency assigned lead responsibility for an emergency support
108 function by the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
109 shall also prepare a detailed operational plan needed to implement
110 its responsibilities. The complete State Comprehensive Emergency
111 Management Plan shall be submitted to the Governor no later than
112 January 1, 1996, and on January 1 of every even-numbered year
113 thereafter.

114 (b) Adopt standards and requirements for county
115 emergency management plans. The standards and requirements must
116 ensure that county plans are coordinated and consistent with the
117 State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. If a municipality
118 elects to establish an emergency management program, it must adopt



119 a city emergency management plan that complies with all standards
120 and requirements applicable to county emergency management plans.

121 (c) Assist political subdivisions in preparing and
122 maintaining emergency management plans.

123 (d) Review periodically political subdivision emergency
124 management plans for consistency with the State Comprehensive
125 Emergency Management Plan and standards and requirements adopted
126 under this section.

127 (e) Make recommendations to the Legislature, building
128 code organizations and political subdivisions for zoning, building
129 and other land use controls, safety measures for securing mobile
130 homes or other nonpermanent or semipermanent structures; and other
131 preparedness, prevention and mitigation measures designed to
132 eliminate emergencies or reduce their impact.

133 (f) In accordance with the State Comprehensive
134 Emergency Management Plan and program for emergency management,
135 ascertain the requirements of the state, its political
136 subdivisions and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for
137 equipment and supplies of all kinds in the event of an emergency;
138 plan for and either procure supplies, medicines, materials and
139 equipment or enter into memoranda of agreement or open purchase
140 orders that will ensure their availability; and use and employ
141 from time to time any of the property, services and resources
142 within the state in accordance with this article.



143 (g) Anticipate trends and promote innovations that will
144 enhance the emergency management system.

145 (h) Prepare and distribute to appropriate state and
146 local officials catalogs of federal, state and private assistance
147 programs.

148 (i) Implement training programs to improve the ability
149 of state and local emergency management personnel to prepare and
150 implement emergency management plans and programs, and require all
151 local civil defense directors or emergency management directors to
152 complete such training as a condition to their authority to
153 continue service in their emergency management positions.

154 (j) Review periodically emergency operating procedures
155 of state agencies and recommend revisions as needed to ensure
156 consistency with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
157 and program.

158 (k) Prepare, in advance whenever possible, such
159 executive orders, proclamations and rules for issuance by the
160 Governor as are necessary or appropriate for coping with
161 emergencies and disasters.

162 (l) Cooperate with the federal government and any
163 public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of
164 this article.

165 (m) Assist political subdivisions with the creation and
166 training of urban search and rescue teams and promote the



167 development and maintenance of a state urban search and rescue
168 program.

169 (n) Delegate, as necessary and appropriate, authority
170 vested in it under this article and provide for the subdelegation
171 of such authority.

172 (o) Require each county or municipality to designate an
173 agent for working with the agency in the event of a natural
174 disaster. The county or municipality may designate any person as
175 agent who has completed training programs required of emergency
176 management directors.

177 (p) Report biennially to the Governor and the President
178 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, no
179 later than January 1 of every odd-numbered year, the status of the
180 emergency management capabilities of the state and its political
181 subdivisions.

182 (q) In accordance with Section 25-43-1 et seq., create,
183 implement, administer, promulgate, amend and rescind rules,
184 programs and plans needed to carry out the provisions of this
185 article with due consideration for, and in cooperating with, the
186 plans and programs of the federal government.

187 (r) Have the sole power and discretion to enter into,
188 sign, execute and deliver long-term or multiyear leases of real
189 and personal property with other state and federal agencies.

190 (s) Do other things necessary, incidental or
191 appropriate for the implementation of this article.



192 (t) In accordance with Section 33-15-15, create,
193 implement, administer, promulgate, amend and rescind rules
194 regarding the development of the Mississippi Disaster Reservist
195 Program.

196 (u) Unless otherwise instructed by the Governor,
197 sponsor and develop mutual aid plans and agreements between the
198 political subdivisions of the state and the Mississippi Band of
199 Choctaw Indians similar to the mutual aid arrangements with other
200 states referenced in Section 33-15-11(b) (10).

201 (v) Enter into contractual agreements with Q-risq
202 Analytics to provide live storm impact data to state agencies and
203 emergency management personnel under the following conditions:

204 (i) Q-risq will include all households within the
205 state in its secure database. The state will provide as much
206 geocoding (lat/lon) as possible and Q-risq will map the households
207 in a secure "viewer."

208 (ii) Q-risq will preprocess these addresses to
209 determine evaluation of each address within storm surge mesh.

210 (iii) Q-risq will update our database with new
211 addresses as provided by the state throughout the year.

212 (iv) During a live storm that will impact the
213 state, Q-risq will provide updates via Zoom calls/emails requested
214 by all government agencies and emergency management personnel
215 every six (6) hours with each update provided by the National
216 Hurricane Center with forecasted information concerning the



217 approaching storm's impact on local addresses, streets and
218 municipalities, including wind/surge risk.

219 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
220 and after July 1, 2022.

