

Public Law 98-49  
98th Congress

An Act

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize appropriations to be made available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for research for the cause, treatment, and prevention of public health emergencies.

July 13, 1983  
[H.R. 2713]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 318 the following new section:

Public Health  
Service Act,  
amendment.

“PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

“SEC. 319. (a) If the Secretary determines, after consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Administrator of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, or the Director of the Centers for Disease Control, that—

42 USC 247d.

“(1) a disease or disorder presents a public health emergency,  
or

“(2) a public health emergency otherwise exists and the Secretary has the authority to take action with respect to such emergency,

the Secretary, acting through such Director, Administrator, or Commissioner, may take such action as may be appropriate to respond to the public health emergency, including making grants and entering into contracts and conducting and supporting investigations into the cause, treatment, or prevention of a disease or disorder described in paragraph (1).

“(b)(1) There is established in the Treasury a fund designated the ‘Public Health Emergency Fund’ to be available to the Secretary without fiscal year limitation to carry out subsection (a). There is authorized to be appropriated to the fund \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1984. For fiscal year 1985 and each fiscal year thereafter there is authorized to be appropriated to the fund such sums as may be necessary to have \$30,000,000 in the fund at the beginning of such fiscal year.

Fund  
establishment.  
Appropriation  
authorization.

“(2) The Secretary shall report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate not later than ninety days after the end of a fiscal year—

Report to  
congressional  
committees.

- “(A) on the expenditures made from the Public Health Emergency Fund in such fiscal year; and
- “(B) describing each public health emergency for which the expenditures were made and the activities undertaken with respect to each emergency which were conducted or supported by expenditures from the Fund.”.

Approved July 13, 1983.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2713:**

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-143 (Comm. on Energy and Commerce).  
 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 129 (1983):  
 June 13, considered and passed House.  
 June 28, considered and passed Senate.