

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2017

To modify certain requirements to encourage the recovery of Puerto Rico
and the United States Virgin Islands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To modify certain requirements to encourage the recovery
of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.**

4 In providing assistance pursuant to section 428 of the
5 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
6 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189f), for critical services as set
7 forth in section 406(a)(3) for the duration of the recovery
8 for incidents DR-4336-PR, DR-4339-PR, DR-4340-
9 USVI, and DR-4335-USVI, the Administrator of the
10 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

(1) revise the guidance definitions for application of section 20601 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123) to provide explicitly that multicomponent systems or facilities be inspected, evaluated, and estimated as a single project rather than requiring every component of the system to be inspected, evaluated, and estimated;

(2) at the request of an applicant, put into effect a procedure for evaluation and authorization of projects through professionally licensed engineers, as provided by subparagraphs (F) and (G) subsection (d)(1) of section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and

(3) extend the deadline for the presentation of cost estimates and project worksheets under such incidents until October 31, 2021.

SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT RECOVERY.

Section 20601 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123) is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

SEC. 3. TIMELY BASIS FOR PAYMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT.

Section 428(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189f) is amended—

- 1 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and”;
- 2 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and
- 3 inserting “; and”; and
- 4 (3) by adding at the end the following:
- 5 “(5) ensuring that work performed by pro-
- 6 viders, suppliers, and contractors to the Federal,
- 7 State, local, or tribal governments or nonprofit fa-
- 8 cilities under the provisions of this Act is paid for
- 9 and reimbursed in a timely manner.”.

10 **SEC. 4. SUBRECIPIENT PAYMENTS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—For incidents DR-4336-PR,

12 DR-4339-PR, DR-4340-USVI, and DR-4335-USVI/

13 For any major disaster or emergency declared under the

14 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

15 ance Act (42 U.S.C 5121 et seq.) in Puerto Rico or the

16 United States Virgin Islands, a subrecipient in meeting

17 any Federal cost-sharing requirement may use available

18 funds from any disaster recovery program/source, includ-

19 ing Community Development Block Grants—Disaster Re-

20 covery, Community Development Block Grants, commu-

21 nity disaster loans, and any in-kind contributions (unless

22 prohibited by law) to meet any Federal cost-sharing re-

23 quirement. Such funds or loans shall cover the cumulative

24 costs of any approved obligation under the specific public

25 assistance category determined by the Federal Emergency

1 Management Administration under such Act rather than
2 having to apply individually to each specific cost estimate
3 or project worksheet issued under such obligation.

4 (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
5 term “subrecipient” means a local government or a non-
6 governmental organization (NGO).

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