

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5774

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that unmet needs after a major disaster are met.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Ms. PLASKETT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that unmet needs after a major disaster are met.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Expediting Disaster
5 Recovery Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNMET NEED ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford
8 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act is amended
9 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 431. UNMET NEEDS ASSISTANCE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—After the declaration of a major
3 disaster, the President may direct the Administrator of
4 the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide,
5 subject to amounts made available from appropriations,
6 assistance necessary for meeting unmet needs as a result
7 of such disaster.

8 “(b) FUNDING.—

9 “(1) AMOUNT OF FUNDING.—Subject to appro-
10 priations and not later than 30 days after a declara-
11 tion is made under section 401, the President acting
12 through the Administrator may allocate an amount
13 that equals up to 10 percent of the estimated aggre-
14 gate amount of the grants to be made pursuant to
15 sections 406 and 408 for the major disaster in order
16 to provide technical and financial assistance under
17 this section and such set aside shall be deemed to
18 be related to activities carried out pursuant to major
19 disasters under this Act.

20 “(2) ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—Not
21 later than 180 days after each major disaster dec-
22 laration pursuant to this Act, the estimated aggre-
23 gate amount of grants for purposes of paragraph (1)
24 shall be determined by the President and such esti-
25 mated amount need not be reduced, increased, or
26 changed due to variations in estimates.

1 “(3) NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.—The
2 amount set aside pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
3 not reduce the amounts otherwise made available for
4 sections 403, 404, 406, 407, 408, 410, 416, and 428
5 under this Act.

6 “(c) UNMET NEEDS.—Financial assistance provided
7 under this section may be used to provide assistance, in
8 addition to other amounts made available under this Act,
9 for the following unmet needs:

10 “(1) Disaster-related home repair and rebuild-
11 ing assistance to families for permanent housing
12 purposes, including in conjunction with eligible ex-
13 penditures under section 408.

14 “(2) Disaster-related unmet needs of families
15 who are unable to obtain adequate assistance from
16 other sources.

17 “(3) Other services that alleviate human suf-
18 fering and promote the well-being of disaster vic-
19 tims.

20 “(4) Economic and business activities (includ-
21 ing food and agriculture) after a disaster to imple-
22 ment post-disaster economic recovery measures, in-
23 cluding planning and technical assistance for long-
24 term economic recovery plans, infrastructure im-
25 provements, business or infrastructure financing,

1 market or industry research, and other activities au-
2 thorized under a comprehensive economic develop-
3 ment strategy.

4 “(d) ACCOUNTING AND FISCAL CONTROLS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
6 after receipt of funds and every 6 months thereafter
7 until all such funds are expended, a State shall sub-
8 mit a report to the Administrator that includes—

9 “(A) the criteria established for deter-
10 mining how the funds are spent;

11 “(B) the allocation of those funds; and

12 “(C) the process for public notice and com-
13 ment.

14 “(2) COMPLIANCE.—Any individual who re-
15 ceives assistance pursuant to this section shall com-
16 ply with section 312(b).

17 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State that re-
18 ceives funds under this section may expend not more
19 than 5 percent of the amount of such funds for the
20 administrative costs of providing financial assistance
21 to individuals and households in the State.”.

22 (b) APPLICABILITY.—This section and the amend-
23 ments made by this section shall apply to funds appro-
24 priated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

2 Section 408(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
3 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i) by striking “to
7 a safe and sanitary living or functioning condi-
8 tion” and inserting “to ensure that their home
9 is habitable during longer term recovery”;

10 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “A
11 recipient of” and inserting “(i) EVIDENCE OF
12 OTHER MEANS OF ASSISTANCE.—A recipient
13 of”; and

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

15 “(ii) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AS-
16 SISTANCE.—Assistance allowed under this
17 paragraph may be used in coordination
18 with other sources for the repair and re-
19 building of an owner-occupied residence.”;
20 and

21 (2) in paragraph (4) by striking “in cases in
22 which” and all that follows through the end of the
23 paragraph and inserting “if the President considers
24 it a cost effective alternative to other housing solu-
25 tions, including the costs associated with temporary

1 housing provided under this section, and long-term
2 rebuilding costs associated with section 431.”.

3 **SEC. 4. REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**

4 Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
6 shall conduct a review on the fiscal controls by States that
7 receive funds under section 431 of the Robert T. Stafford
8 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and shall
9 make recommendations to the Committee on Homeland
10 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the
11 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
12 House of Representatives.

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