

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3459

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to expand eligibility for individual and public assistance to certain areas and to include cumulative damage from multiple natural catastrophes in the definition of major disaster, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2021

Mr. BABIN (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI) 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 expand eligibility for individual and public assistance to certain areas and to include cumulative damage from multiple natural catastrophes in the definition of major disaster, and for other purposes.

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 “Regional Impact of
5 Disasters and Emergencies Relief Act” or the “RIDER
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONTIGUOUS AREA.**

2 Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
3 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 431. CONTIGUOUS AREA.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Any area under the jurisdiction
7 of a State or local government that is contiguous to an
8 area that the President designates as eligible to receive
9 any form of covered assistance as a result of a major dis-
10 aster may be deemed by the Administrator of the Federal
11 Emergency Management Agency to be eligible to receive
12 such assistance with respect to such disaster.

13 “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘covered
14 assistance’ means—

15 “(1) hazard mitigation assistance provided
16 under section 404;

17 “(2) any assistance provided to an individual or
18 household under sections 408, 410, 415, 416, or
19 426; and

20 “(3) any public assistance provided under sec-
21 tions 403, 406, or 407.”.

22 **SEC. 3. CUMULATIVE DAMAGE.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102(2) of the Robert T.
24 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
25 (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “‘Major disaster’ means” and
2 inserting “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘major dis-
3 aster’ means”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘major dis-
6 aster’ includes more than 1 natural catastrophe,
7 fire, flood, or explosion described in subpara-
8 graph (A) that occurs in a 12-month period and
9 that individually does not cause damage of suf-
10 ficient severity and magnitude to warrant major
11 disaster assistance under this Act, but that, in
12 the determination of the President, cumula-
13 tively causes damage of sufficient severity and
14 magnitude to warrant such assistance.”.

15 (b) INTERIM GUIDANCE.—Not later than 60 days
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
17 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall issue
18 interim guidance to implement the amendments made by
19 subsection (a).

20 (c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the President, acting
22 through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
23 Management Agency, shall issue such rules and regula-
24 tions as are necessary to—

- 1 (1) ensure compliance with section 1232 of the
- 2 FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–
- 3 254); and
- 4 (2) implement the amendments made by sub-
- 5 section (a).

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