

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1797

To amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to ensure community accountability for areas repetitively damaged by floods, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mrs. WAGNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to ensure community accountability for areas repetitively damaged by floods, 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 “Repeatedly Flooded
5 Communities Preparation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY FOR REPETITIVELY**
2 **FLOODED AREAS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1361 of the National
4 Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4102) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY FOR REPEAT-
7 EDLY DAMAGED AREAS.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

9 “(A) the term ‘covered community’ means
10 a community—

11 “(i) that is participating in the na-
12 tional flood insurance program under sec-
13 tion 1315; and

14 “(ii) within which are located—

15 “(I) not fewer than 50 repetitive
16 loss structures with respect to each of
17 which, during any 10-year period,
18 there have been not fewer than 2
19 claims for payments under flood in-
20 surance coverage for a total amount
21 that is more than \$1,000;

22 “(II) not fewer than 5 severe re-
23 petitive loss structures for which miti-
24 gation activities meeting the stand-
25 ards for approval under section

1 1366(c)(2)(A) have not been con-
2 ducted; or

3 “(III) a public facility or a pri-
4 vate nonprofit facility that has re-
5 ceived assistance for repair, restora-
6 tion, reconstruction, or replacement
7 under section 406 of the Robert T.
8 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
9 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
10 5172) relating to more than 1 flood-
11 ing event during the most recent 10-
12 year period;

13 “(B) the terms ‘private nonprofit facility’
14 and ‘public facility’ have the meanings given
15 those terms in section 102 of the Robert T.
16 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
17 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122); and

18 “(C) the term ‘severe repetitive loss struc-
19 ture’ has the meaning given the term in section
20 1366(h).

21 “(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR COVERED COMMU-
22 NITIES.—The Administrator shall, by regulation, re-
23 quire a covered community to—

24 “(A) determine the areas within the cov-
25 ered community in which properties described

1 in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) or flood-damaged facili-
2 ties are located in order to identify areas that
3 are repeatedly damaged by floods;

4 “(B) assess, with assistance from the Ad-
5 ministrator, the continuing risks to the repeat-
6 edly damaged areas identified under subpara-
7 graph (A);

8 “(C) develop a community-specific plan for
9 mitigating continuing flood risks to the repeat-
10 edly damaged areas identified under subpara-
11 graph (A);

12 “(D) submit the plan described in subpara-
13 graph (C) and any plan updates to the Admin-
14 istrator at appropriate intervals;

15 “(E) implement the plan described in sub-
16 paragraph (C); and

17 “(F) subject to section 552a of title 5,
18 United States Code, make the plan described in
19 subparagraph (C), any updates to the plan, and
20 reports on progress in reducing flood risk avail-
21 able to the public.

22 “(3) INCORPORATION INTO EXISTING PLANS.—

23 A covered community may incorporate a plan devel-
24 oped under paragraph (2)(C) into a mitigation plan
25 developed under—

1 “(A) section 1366; and

2 “(B) section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford
3 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 5165).

5 “(4) ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES.—

6 “(A) DATA.—To assist a covered commu-
7 nity in developing a plan required under para-
8 graph (2)(C), the Administrator shall, upon re-
9 quest, provide the covered community with ap-
10 propriate data regarding the property addresses
11 and dates of claims associated with insured
12 properties within the covered community.

13 “(B) MITIGATION GRANTS.—In making a
14 determination regarding financial assistance
15 under this Act, the Administrator may consider
16 the extent to which a covered community—

17 “(i) has complied with this subsection;

18 and

19 “(ii) is working to remedy problems
20 with respect to repeatedly flooded areas.

21 “(5) SANCTIONS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
23 may, by regulations issued in accordance with
24 the procedures required under section 553 of
25 title 5, United States Code, impose appropriate

1 sanctions on a covered community that fails
2 to—

3 “(i) comply with this subsection; or

4 “(ii) make sufficient progress in re-
5 ducing the flood risks to areas in the cov-
6 ered community that are repeatedly dam-
7 aged by floods.

8 “(B) NOTICE.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Before imposing
10 any sanctions under this paragraph, the
11 Administrator shall provide the covered
12 community that is subject to the sanctions
13 with notice of the violation that may sub-
14 ject the covered community to the sanc-
15 tions.

16 “(ii) CONTENTS.—The notice required
17 under clause (i) shall include recommenda-
18 tions for actions that the covered commu-
19 nity receiving the notice may take in order
20 to bring the covered community into com-
21 pliance.

22 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
23 appropriate sanctions to impose under this
24 paragraph, the Administrator shall consider the

1 resources available to the covered community
2 that is subject to the sanctions, including—

3 “(i) any Federal funding received by
4 the covered community;

5 “(ii) the portion of the covered com-
6 munity that lies within an area having spe-
7 cial flood hazards; and

8 “(iii) any other factor that makes it
9 difficult for the covered community to con-
10 duct mitigation activities for flood-prone
11 structures.

12 “(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
13 6 years after the date of enactment of this sub-
14 section, and not less frequently than once every 2
15 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to
16 Congress a report regarding the progress made by
17 covered communities with respect to implementing
18 plans developed under paragraph (2)(C).”.

19 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
21 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall issue regu-
22 lations necessary to carry out subsection (e) of section
23 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42
24 U.S.C. 4102), as added by subsection (a) of this section.

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