

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8525

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a Disaster Equity and Justice Subcommittee, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a Disaster Equity and Justice Subcommittee, 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 “Delivering Equity and  
5 Justice for Disaster Survivors Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISASTER EQUITY AND JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE.**

7 Section 508 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
8 (6 U.S.C. 318) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
2           section (f); and

3           (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(e) DISASTER EQUITY AND JUSTICE SUB-  
6           COMMITTEE.—

7           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days  
8           after the date of the enactment of the Delivering  
9           Equity and Justice for Disaster Survivors Act of  
10          2022, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency  
11          Management Agency shall establish, as a sub-  
12          committee of the National Advisory Council, the  
13          Disaster Equity and Justice Subcommittee.

14          “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the Dis-  
15          aster Equity and Justice Subcommittee shall be ap-  
16          pointed by the Administrator, in consultation with  
17          members of the National Advisory Council and the  
18          White House Environmental Justice Advisory Coun-  
19          cil (or any relevant successor organization focused  
20          on environmental justice), and shall be composed of  
21          the following:

22                 “(A) Individuals that have the requisite  
23                 technical knowledge and expertise to address  
24                 disaster equity and justice issues, including—

1 “(i) emergency management and  
2 emergency response providers, including  
3 those with direct experience serving under-  
4 represented and underserved communities;  
5 and

6 “(ii) State, local, and Tribal govern-  
7 ment officials, particularly officials from  
8 communities that are underrepresented  
9 and underserved, communities of color,  
10 and communities that have been disadvan-  
11 tagged by inequitable Federal disaster as-  
12 sistance in the past.

13 “(B) Individuals who have the requisite  
14 technical or experiential knowledge and exper-  
15 tise to serve on the Disaster Equity and Justice  
16 Subcommittee, including—

17 “(i) at least 1 academic expert who  
18 has studied equity implications of disaster  
19 response and recovery efforts; and

20 “(ii) at least 1 representative from  
21 each of the following:

22 “(I) A civil rights organization.

23 “(II) A fair or affordable housing  
24 organization.

1 “(III) A Tribal and Indigenous  
2 community rights organization.

3 “(IV) An environmental justice  
4 organization.

5 “(V) A community-based and  
6 faith-based organization that aids in  
7 disaster recovery and response.

8 “(VI) An equity, justice, bias,  
9 and non-discrimination training pro-  
10 vider.

11 “(C) Representatives of other stakeholders  
12 and interested and affected parties as the Chair  
13 considers appropriate.

14 “(3) CHAIR.—The Chair of the subcommittee  
15 shall be the Administrator.

16 “(4) INITIAL MEETING.—The initial meeting of  
17 the Disaster Equity and Justice Subcommittee shall  
18 take place not later than 90 days after the date of  
19 enactment of the Delivering Equity and Justice for  
20 Disaster Survivors Act of 2022.

21 “(5) CONSULTATION WITH NONMEMBERS.—The  
22 Disaster Equity and Justice Subcommittee shall  
23 consult with other relevant agencies and groups  
24 which are not represented on the Disaster Equity  
25 and Justice Subcommittee to consider new and de-

1        developing practices and methods that may be bene-  
2        ficial to ensure the equitable and just delivery of  
3        programs and aid through the preparedness, re-  
4        sponse, and recovery cycles to communities and indi-  
5        viduals across the United States.

6            “(6) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Disaster Eq-  
7        uity and Justice Subcommittee shall develop rec-  
8        ommendations, as appropriate, for improving equi-  
9        table and just policy and program delivery before,  
10       during, and after disasters, including recommenda-  
11       tions relating to the following topics:

12            “(A) The accessibility, utilization, and re-  
13        ceipt of Agency grants and assistance by under-  
14       served, under-resourced, and underrepresented  
15       populations and communities including—

16            “(i) subpopulations and communities  
17        of color;

18            “(ii) rural and remote communities;

19            “(iii) small communities;

20            “(iv) low-capacity communities;

21            “(v) Tribal and Indigenous commu-  
22        nities; and

23            “(vi) environmental justice commu-  
24        nities.

1           “(B) Strategies and policy recommenda-  
2           tions to address the inequitable delivery of dis-  
3           aster assistance, grant programs, technical as-  
4           sistance, and training.

5           “(C) Effective strategies to prioritize and  
6           direct additional preparedness and mitigation  
7           funding to improve planning, preparedness,  
8           mitigation, and recovery outcomes as well as  
9           overall resilience in culturally, economically, and  
10          socially vulnerable communities.

11          “(D) The capability and capacity of the  
12          workforce of the Agency to deliver equitable and  
13          culturally competent assistance to underrep-  
14          resented communities and the most effective  
15          training solutions to increase cultural and eq-  
16          uity competencies.

17          “(E) The capacity and effectiveness of con-  
18          sultation from Tribal and Indigenous commu-  
19          nities to the Agency and liaison roles in commu-  
20          nicating and addressing needs of all Tribal and  
21          Indigenous communities and solutions to ad-  
22          dress existing deficiencies, including regionally  
23          specific recommendations.

24          “(F) Any gaps in current State emergency  
25          management resources and program delivery re-

1           sulting in inequitable access to Agency re-  
2           sources across different States.

3           “(G) Opportunities and strategies to en-  
4           sure a portion of Federal contracting and sub-  
5           contracting agreements are awarded equitably  
6           to minority-owned businesses.

7           “(H) Identification of opportunities to up-  
8           date and further integrate the National Risk  
9           Index into equity considerations across the  
10          Agency.

11          “(I) Strategies to address any disparate  
12          impacts climate change will have on culturally,  
13          socially, economically vulnerable communities,  
14          with particular consideration given to hazard  
15          mitigation, preparedness, and planning resource  
16          delivery.

17          “(J) The implementation of the Justice40  
18          initiative across relevant Agency programs, as  
19          well as recommendations on the data utilized in  
20          the identification of eligible recipients of re-  
21          sources from such initiative.

22          “(7) REPORT.—

23          “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
24          after the date of the enactment of the Deliv-  
25          ering Equity and Justice for Disaster Survivors

1 Act of 2022, the Disaster Equity and Justice  
2 Subcommittee shall submit a report to the Na-  
3 tional Advisory Council that—

4 “(i) includes the recommendations de-  
5 veloped under paragraph (6);

6 “(ii) specifies the time frames for im-  
7 plementing any such recommendations that  
8 do not require congressional action; and

9 “(iii) identifies any such recommenda-  
10 tions that do require congressional action.

11 “(B) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days  
12 after receiving the report under subparagraph  
13 (A), the National Advisory Council shall begin  
14 a review of such report. The National Advisory  
15 Council may ask for additional clarification,  
16 changes, or other information from the Disaster  
17 Equity and Justice Subcommittee to assist in  
18 the approval of such report.

19 “(C) RECOMMENDATION.—Upon approval  
20 of the report of the Disaster Equity and Justice  
21 Subcommittee under subparagraph (B), the Na-  
22 tional Advisory Council shall submit such report  
23 to—

24 “(i) the Administrator;



1 “(ii) the heads of other Federal agen-  
2 cies with a role in disaster response and  
3 recovery, including the Department of  
4 Housing and Urban Development, Envi-  
5 ronmental Protection Agency, Department  
6 of Transportation, Department of Health  
7 and Human Services, Department of the  
8 Interior, Department of Agriculture, Small  
9 Business Administration, Economic Devel-  
10 opment Administration, United States  
11 Coast Guard, National Guard, and Depart-  
12 ment of Homeland Security;

13 “(ii) the Committee on Homeland Se-  
14 curity and Governmental Affairs and the  
15 Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
16 Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

17 “(iii) the Committee on Homeland Se-  
18 curity, the Committee on Transportation  
19 and Infrastructure, and the Committee on  
20 Financial Services of the House of Rep-  
21 resentatives.

22 “(8) INTERIM UPDATES AND OVERSIGHT.—

23 After the submission of the report by the National  
24 Advisory Council under paragraph (7), the Adminis-  
25 trator shall—

1           “(A) provide annual updates to the con-  
2           gressional committees referred to in clauses (ii)  
3           and (iii) of paragraph (7)(C) regarding the sta-  
4           tus of the implementation of the recommenda-  
5           tions contained in such report; and

6           “(B) coordinate the implementation of  
7           such recommendations, as appropriate.

8           “(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9           “(A) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian  
10          Tribe’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
11          tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and  
12          Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

13          “(B) TRIBAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMU-  
14          NITY.—The term ‘Tribal and Indigenous com-  
15          munity’ means a population of people who are  
16          members of—

17               “(i) a federally recognized Indian  
18               Tribe;

19               “(ii) a State-recognized Indian Tribe;

20               “(iii) an Alaska Native or Native Ha-  
21               waiian community or organization; or

22               “(iv) any other community of Indige-  
23               nous people located in a State.

1                   “(C) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term  
2                   ‘Tribal government’ means the governing body  
3                   of an Indian Tribe.”.

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