

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5175

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a pilot grant program for mobile pet shelters during emergencies and major disasters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 8, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MAST, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a pilot grant program for mobile pet shelters during emergencies and major disasters.

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 “Providing Essential
5 Temporary Shelter Assistance For Emergencies Act of
6 2023” or the “PETS SAFE Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
4 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
5 Emergency Management Agency.

6 (2) EMERGENCY.—The term “emergency”
7 means an emergency declared by the President
8 under title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
9 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191
10 et seq.).

11 (3) MAJOR DISASTER.—The term “major dis-
12 aster” means a major disaster declared by the Presi-
13 dent under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
14 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
15 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.).

16 (4) COMMON HOUSEHOLD PET.—The term
17 “common household pet” means an animal, includ-
18 ing a dog, cat, bird, rodent, rabbit, or turtle, that is
19 kept in the home as a companion animal rather than
20 for commercial purposes.

21 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the
23 Administrator, in coordination with State, local, and Trib-
24 al governments, shall establish and conduct a pilot pro-
25 gram to provide grants for equipping mobile pet shelter
26 sites for use during emergencies and major disasters.

1 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of the pilot
3 program under this section, the Administrator may
4 provide funds to State, local, and Tribal govern-
5 ments to establish a new pet shelter site that is a
6 mobile unit, which may be a companion animal mo-
7 bile equipment trailer, to be used in the case of evac-
8 uation due to emergencies and major disasters.

9 (2) DUTIES.—The duties of such mobile unit
10 shall be to—

11 (A) provide—

12 (i) immediate and temporary shelter
13 to common household pets in the case of
14 government directed or ordered evacuation
15 at embarkation sites in the impacted juris-
16 diction or shelters or reception sites within
17 the impacted jurisdiction or a host jurisdic-
18 tion; or

19 (ii) provide safe transport of common
20 household pets that require shelter during
21 evacuations and relocate pets to a safe lo-
22 cation; and

23 (B) facilitate the reunification of common
24 household pets, including return transport, if
25 necessary, with the owners of such pets not

1 later than 3 weeks after all evacuation warnings
2 are lifted and disaster-caused congregate shel-
3 ters operation transition and close.

4 (3) REPORT.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
7 ministrator shall submit to Congress a report
8 on the effectiveness of the pilot program.

9 (B) CONTENTS.—The Administrator shall
10 include in the report required under subpara-
11 graph (A)—

12 (i) an assessment of the effectiveness
13 of the pilot program under this section, in-
14 cluding consultation with State, local, and
15 Tribal governments and private nonprofit
16 organizations with responsibility for care
17 and sheltering of household pets;

18 (ii) an assessment of cost savings to
19 State, local, and Tribal governments and
20 any benefits to individuals and households
21 who housed a common household pet with
22 a mobile shelter under the pilot program;

23 (iii) findings and conclusions of the
24 Administrator with respect to the pilot pro-
25 gram;

1 (iv) an assessment of additional au-
2 thorities needed to aid the Agency in its
3 mission of providing disaster assistance to
4 individuals and households with pets, ei-
5 ther under the pilot program under this
6 section or other potential programs; and

7 (v) any recommendations of the Ad-
8 ministrator for additional authority to con-
9 tinue or make permanent the pilot pro-
10 gram.

11 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM PROJECT APPROVAL.**

12 The authority of the Administrator to approve a
13 project under this section shall cease on January 1, 2029.

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