

Union Calendar No. 358

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5774

[Report No. 117-461]

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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Additional sponsors: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LAMALFA, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on October 28, 2021]

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 Re-*
5 *covery 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:*

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

11 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—After the declaration of a major*
12 *disaster, the President may direct the Administrator of the*
13 *Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide, subject*
14 *to amounts made available from appropriations, assistance*
15 *necessary for meeting unmet needs as a result of such dis-*
16 *aster.*

17 *“(b) FUNDING.—*

18 *“(1) AMOUNT OF FUNDING.—Subject to appro-*
19 *priations and not later than 30 days after a declara-*
20 *tion is made under section 401, the President acting*
21 *through the Administrator may allocate an amount*
22 *that equals up to 10 percent of the estimated aggre-*
23 *gate amount of the grants to be made pursuant to sec-*
24 *tions 406 and 408 for the major disaster in order to*
25 *provide technical and financial assistance under this*

1 *section and such set aside shall be deemed to be re-*
2 *lated to activities carried out pursuant to major dis-*
3 *asters under this Act.*

4 “(2) *ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT.*—*Not*
5 *later than 180 days after each major disaster declara-*
6 *tion pursuant to this Act, the estimated aggregate*
7 *amount of grants for purposes of paragraph (1) shall*
8 *be determined by the President and such estimated*
9 *amount need not be reduced, increased, or changed*
10 *due to variations in estimates.*

11 “(3) *NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.*—*The amount*
12 *set aside pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce*
13 *the amounts otherwise made available for sections*
14 *403, 404, 406, 407, 408, 410, 416, and 428 under this*
15 *Act.*

16 “(c) *UNMET NEEDS.*—*Financial assistance provided*
17 *under this section may be used to provide assistance, in*
18 *addition to other amounts made available under this Act,*
19 *for the following unmet needs:*

20 “(1) *Disaster-related home repair and rebuilding*
21 *assistance to families for permanent housing pur-*
22 *poses, including in conjunction with eligible expendi-*
23 *tures under section 408.*

1 “(2) *Disaster-related unmet needs of families*
2 *who are unable to obtain adequate assistance from*
3 *other sources.*

4 “(3) *Other services that alleviate human suf-*
5 *fering and promote the well-being of disaster victims.*

6 “(4) *Economic and business activities (including*
7 *food and agriculture) after a disaster to implement*
8 *post-disaster economic recovery measures, including*
9 *planning and technical assistance for long-term eco-*
10 *nom ic recovery plans, infrastructure improvements,*
11 *business or infrastructure financing, market or indus-*
12 *try research, and other activities authorized under a*
13 *comprehensive economic development strategy.*

14 “(d) *ACCOUNTING AND FISCAL CONTROLS.—*

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

19 “(A) *the criteria established for determining*
20 *how the funds are spent;*

21 “(B) *the allocation of those funds; and*

22 “(C) *the process for public notice and com-*
23 *ment.*

1 “(2) *COMPLIANCE.*—Any individual who receives
2 assistance pursuant to this section shall comply with
3 section 312(b).

4 “(3) *ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.*—A State that re-
5 ceives funds under this section may expend not more
6 than 5 percent of the amount of such funds for the ad-
7 ministrative costs of providing financial assistance to
8 individuals and households in the State.”.

9 (b) *APPLICABILITY.*—This section and the amendments
10 made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on
11 or after the date of enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 3. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

13 Section 408(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
14 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amend-
15 ed—

16 (1) in paragraph (2)—

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

21 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “A re-
22 cipient of” and inserting “(i) *EVIDENCE OF*
23 *OTHER MEANS OF ASSISTANCE.*—A recipient of”;
24 and

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

1 “(i) *COORDINATION WITH OTHER ASSIST-*
2 *ANCE.—Assistance allowed under this paragraph*
3 *may be used in coordination with other sources*
4 *for the repair and rebuilding of an owner-occu-*
5 *ped residence.”; and*

6 (2) *in paragraph (4) by striking “in cases in*
7 *which” and all that follows through the end of the*
8 *paragraph and inserting “if the President considers it*
9 *a cost effective alternative to other housing solutions,*
10 *including the costs associated with temporary housing*
11 *provided under this section, and long-term rebuilding*
12 *costs associated with section 431.”.*

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

14 *Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of*
15 *this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall*
16 *conduct a review on the fiscal controls by States that receive*
17 *funds under section 431 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster*
18 *Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and shall make rec-*
19 *ommendations to the Committee on Homeland Security and*
20 *Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on*
21 *Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-*
22 *resentatives.*

1 **SEC. 5. DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.**

2 Section 312(b)(4) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
3 *Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (42 U.S.C.
4 5155(b)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(D) *LIMITATION ON USE OF INCOME CRI-*
6 *TERIA.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the*
7 *President may not impose additional income cri-*
8 *teria on a potential grant recipient who has ac-*
9 *cepted a qualified disaster loan in determining*
10 *eligibility for duplications of benefit relief.”.*

Union Calendar No. 358

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5774

[Report No. 117-461]

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.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed