

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 601

To modify certain requirements to encourage the recovery of Puerto Rico  
and the United States Virgin Islands.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN introduced the following bill; which was referred to  
the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To modify certain requirements to encourage the recovery  
of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

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. ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.**

4 In providing assistance pursuant to section 428 of the  
5 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
6 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189f), for critical services as set  
7 forth in section 406(a)(3) for the duration of the recovery  
8 for incidents DR-4336-PR, DR-4339-PR, DR-4340-  
9 USVI, and DR-4335-USVI, the Administrator of the  
10 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

1           (1) revise the guidance definitions for applica-  
2           tion of section 20601 of the Bipartisan Budget Act  
3           of 2018 (Public Law 115–123) to provide explicitly  
4           that multicomponent systems or facilities be in-  
5           spected, evaluated, and estimated as a single project  
6           rather than requiring every component of the system  
7           to be inspected, evaluated, and estimated;

8           (2) at the request of an applicant, put into ef-  
9           fect a procedure for evaluation and authorization of  
10          projects through professionally licensed engineers, as  
11          provided by subparagraphs (F) and (G) of sub-  
12          section (e)(1) of section 428 of the Robert T. Staf-  
13          ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act;  
14          and

15          (3) extend the deadline for the presentation of  
16          cost estimates and project worksheets under such in-  
17          cidents until October 31, 2021.

18 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT RECOVERY.**

19          Section 20601 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018  
20          (Public Law 115–123) is amended by striking “may” and  
21          inserting “shall”.

1 **SEC. 3. TIMELY BASIS FOR PAYMENT AND REIMBURSE-**  
2 **MENT.**

3 Section 428(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
4 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189f) is  
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and”;

7 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and  
8 inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(5) ensuring that work performed by pro-  
11 viders, suppliers, and contractors to the Federal,  
12 State, local, or tribal governments or nonprofit fa-  
13 cilities under the provisions of this Act is paid for  
14 and reimbursed in a timely manner.”.

15 **SEC. 4. SUBRECIPIENT PAYMENTS.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—For incidents DR-4336-PR,  
17 DR-4339-PR, DR-4340-USVI, and DR-4335-USVI.  
18 For any major disaster or emergency declared under the  
19 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
20 ance Act (42 U.S.C 5121 et seq.) in Puerto Rico or the  
21 United States Virgin Islands, a subrecipient in meeting  
22 any Federal cost-sharing requirement may use available  
23 funds from any disaster recovery program/source, includ-  
24 ing Community Development Block Grants—Disaster Re-  
25 covery, Community Development Block Grants, commu-  
26 nity disaster loans, and any in-kind contributions (unless

1 prohibited by law) to meet any Federal cost-sharing re-  
2 quirement. Such funds or loans shall cover the cumulative  
3 costs of any approved obligation under the specific public  
4 assistance category determined by the Federal Emergency  
5 Management Administration under such Act rather than  
6 having to apply individually to each specific cost estimate  
7 or project worksheet issued under such obligation.

8 (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
9 term “subrecipient” means a local government or a non-  
10 governmental organization (NGO).

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