

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6542

To improve assistance after a hurricane or major disaster.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Mr. RICHMOND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To improve assistance after a hurricane or major disaster.

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 “FEMA Reform Act  
5 of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAST FUNDING.**

7 Not later than 3 days after the Federal Emergency  
8 Management Agency completes a preliminary damage as-  
9 sessment for any State or local government, 50 percent

1 of the amount estimated for such assessment shall be re-  
2 leased to the State or local government.

3 **SEC. 3. HAZARD MITIGATION.**

4 Mitigation funding for a State under section 404 of  
5 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
6 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) shall be disseminated with-  
7 in areas of the State in proportion to the damage of a  
8 major disaster in such areas.

9 **SEC. 4. REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND REPLACEMENT OP-**  
10 **TIONS.**

11 In addition to facilities covered under section 406 of  
12 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
13 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5171), the President may make  
14 contributions to a State or local government to repair, re-  
15 store, or replace vehicles and equipment, particularly vehi-  
16 cles and equipment used for public safety, transportation,  
17 and service. If a vehicle or equipment is more than 50  
18 percent damaged, the actual cash value of such vehicle or  
19 equipment may be used to replace it.

20 **SEC. 5. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE.**

21 The President may provide financial assistance under  
22 section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
23 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) to repair per-  
24 manent structures, including rental units, necessary for

1 temporary or transitional housing in the areas affected by  
2 a major disaster.

3 **SEC. 6. DISASTER RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY PER-**  
4 **SONNEL OPTIONS.**

5 For any major disaster that requires employees from  
6 the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be avail-  
7 able for an extended period of time in a major disaster  
8 area to assist individuals with public assistance applica-  
9 tions, the Agency shall establish a recruiting and training  
10 office in such area as soon as possible to facilitate the hir-  
11 ing of local individuals to assist with such applications.

12 **SEC. 7. UTILITIES.**

13 Not later than 180 after the date of enactment of  
14 this Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the  
15 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Depart-  
16 ment of Energy shall evaluate and complete and publish  
17 a report outlining recommendations to public and private  
18 utilities, including electrical, water, sewer, and tele-  
19 communications, to reduce service interruptions during  
20 and after a hurricane.

21 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

22 For purposes of this Act, the terms “local govern-  
23 ment, major disaster, and State” have the same meanings  
24 given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford

1 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
2 5122).

