

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5267

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit of the expenditures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. WELCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit of the expenditures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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 Operational
5 Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUDIT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
9 of the United States shall conduct an audit on the expend-
10 itures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—The audit conducted under sub-
2 section (a) shall—

3 (1) detail payments made by the Federal Emer-
4 gency Management Agency for—

5 (A) individual assistance under section 408
6 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
7 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174);

8 (B) the Public Assistance Program of the
9 Federal Emergency Management Agency;

10 (C) hazard mitigation under section 404 of
11 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
12 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170e);
13 and

14 (D) Federal agency mission assignments in
15 anticipation of, or in response to, a major dis-
16 aster or emergency declared under section 401
17 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford
18 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191);

20 (2) compare the payments for the programs de-
21 scribed in paragraph (1) to the administrative cost
22 of those programs;

23 (3) describe the role of personnel hired to ad-
24 minister each program described in paragraph (1);

1 (4) describe the amount of the Disaster Relief
2 Fund of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
3 cy that is spent on administrative costs for the pro-
4 grams described in paragraph (1);

5 (5) detail how workforce shortages the Federal
6 Emergency Management Agency has been experi-
7 encing since 2020 have impacted the administrative
8 costs described in paragraph (4); and

9 (6) include recommendations for reducing
10 amounts spent on administrative costs and ensuring
11 that disaster survivors, especially in rural commu-
12 nities, receive the most relief possible.

13 (c) SUBMISSION.—With respect to the audit con-
14 ducted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of
15 the United States shall—

16 (1) submit to Congress the audit; and

17 (2) make the audit publicly available.

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