

PUBLIC LAW 114-88—NOV. 25, 2015

**RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS FOR SMALL
ENTITIES AFTER DISASTER ACT OF 2015**

Public Law 114–88
114th Congress

An Act

Nov. 25, 2015
[H.R. 208]

Recovery
Improvements
for Small
Entities After
Disaster Act of
2015.
15 USC 631 note.

To improve the disaster assistance programs of the Small Business Administration.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015” or the “RISE After Disaster Act of 2015”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

DIVISION A—SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 1001. Short title.

Sec. 1002. Findings.

TITLE I—DISASTER ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 1101. Revised disaster deadline.

Sec. 1102. Use of physical damage disaster loans to construct safe rooms.

Sec. 1103. Reducing delays on closing and disbursement of loans.

Sec. 1104. Safeguarding taxpayer interests and increasing transparency in loan approvals.

Sec. 1105. Disaster plan improvements.

DIVISION B—RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS FOR SMALL ENTITIES

Sec. 2001. Short title.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND LOANS

Sec. 2101. Additional awards to small business development centers, women’s business centers, and SCORE for disaster recovery.

Sec. 2102. Collateral requirements for disaster loans.

Sec. 2103. Assistance to out-of-State business concerns to aid in disaster recovery.

Sec. 2104. FAST program.

Sec. 2105. Use of Federal surplus property in disaster areas.

Sec. 2106. Recovery opportunity loans.

Sec. 2107. Contractor malfeasance.

Sec. 2108. Local contracting preferences and incentives.

Sec. 2109. Clarification of collateral requirements.

TITLE II—DISASTER PLANNING AND MITIGATION

Sec. 2201. Business recovery centers.

TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 2301. Increased oversight of economic injury disaster loans.

Sec. 2302. GAO report on paperwork reduction.

Sec. 2303. Report on web portal for disaster loan applicants.

DIVISION A—SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Superstorm
Sandy Relief and
Disaster Loan
Program
Improvement Act
of 2015.

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Superstorm Sandy Relief and Disaster Loan Program Improvement Act of 2015”.

15 USC 631 note.

SEC. 1002. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

15 USC 636 note.

(1) In 2012, Superstorm Sandy caused substantial physical and economic damage to the United States, and New York in particular.

(2) For businesses and homeowners, the primary means of obtaining long-term Federal financial assistance in the wake of disasters such as Superstorm Sandy is through the Small Business Administration’s Disaster Loan Program.

(3) With regard to the Small Business Administration’s operation of the Disaster Loan Program after Superstorm Sandy, the Government Accountability Office found that the Administration did not meet its timeliness goals for processing business loan applications.

(4) According to the Government Accountability Office, the Small Business Administration stated that it was challenged by an unexpectedly high volume of loan applications that it received early in its response to Superstorm Sandy.

(5) As a result, many businesses and homeowners affected by Superstorm Sandy were unable to apply for financing from the Small Business Administration.

TITLE I—DISASTER ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 1101. REVISED DISASTER DEADLINE.

Section 7(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) DISASTER LOANS FOR SUPERSTORM SANDY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to the same requirements and procedures that are used to make loans pursuant to subsection (b), a small business concern, homeowner, nonprofit entity, or renter that was located within an area and during the time period with respect to which a major disaster was declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) by reason of Superstorm Sandy may apply to the Administrator—

“(i) for a loan to repair, rehabilitate, or replace property damaged or destroyed by reason of Superstorm Sandy; or

“(ii) if such a small business concern has suffered substantial economic injury by reason of Superstorm Sandy, for a loan to assist such a small business concern.

“(B) TIMING.—The Administrator shall select loan recipients and make available loans for a period of not less than 1 year after the date on which the Administrator carries out this authority.

“(C) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the Administrator begins carrying out this authority, the Inspector General of the Administration shall initiate a review of the controls for ensuring applicant eligibility for loans made under this paragraph.”.

SEC. 1102. USE OF PHYSICAL DAMAGE DISASTER LOANS TO CONSTRUCT SAFE ROOMS.

Section 7(b)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “mitigating measures” and all that follows through “modifying structures” and inserting the following: “mitigating measures, including—

“(i) construction of retaining walls and sea walls;

“(ii) grading and contouring land; and

“(iii) relocating utilities and modifying structures, including construction of a safe room or similar storm shelter designed to protect property and occupants from tornadoes or other natural disasters, if such safe room or similar storm shelter is constructed in accordance with applicable standards issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency”.

SEC. 1103. REDUCING DELAYS ON CLOSING AND DISBURSEMENT OF LOANS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (9) the following:

Notification.
Web posting.

“(10) REDUCING CLOSING AND DISBURSEMENT DELAYS.—The Administrator shall provide a clear and concise notification on all application materials for loans made under this subsection and on relevant websites notifying an applicant that the applicant may submit all documentation necessary for the approval of the loan at the time of application and that failure to submit all documentation could delay the approval and disbursement of the loan.”.

SEC. 1104. SAFEGUARDING TAXPAYER INTERESTS AND INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN LOAN APPROVALS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (10), as added by section 1103 of this Act, the following:

Procedures.

“(11) INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN LOAN APPROVALS.—The Administrator shall establish and implement clear, written policies and procedures for analyzing the ability of a loan applicant to repay a loan made under this subsection.”.

15 USC 6571
note.

SEC. 1105. DISASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS.

The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall revise the comprehensive written disaster response plan required in section 40 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 6571), or any successor thereto, to incorporate the Administration’s response to a situation in which an extreme volume of applications are received during the period of time immediately after a disaster, which shall

include a plan to ensure that sufficient human and technological resources are made available and a plan to prevent delays in loan processing.

DIVISION B—RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS FOR SMALL ENTITIES

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015” or the “RISE After Disaster Act of 2015”.

Recovery
Improvements
for Small
Entities After
Disaster Act of
2015.
15 USC 631 note.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND LOANS

SEC. 2101. ADDITIONAL AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS, AND SCORE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (11), as added by section 1104 of this Act, the following:

“(12) **ADDITIONAL AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS, AND SCORE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY.**—

Grants.
Contracts.

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration may provide financial assistance to a small business development center, a women’s business center described in section 29, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, or any proposed consortium of such individuals or entities to spur disaster recovery and growth of small business concerns located in an area for which the President has declared a major disaster.

“(B) **FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—Financial assistance provided under this paragraph shall be in the form of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

“(C) **NO MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.**—Matching funds shall not be required for any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph.

“(D) **REQUIREMENTS.**—A recipient of financial assistance under this paragraph shall provide counseling, training, and other related services, such as promoting long-term resiliency, to small business concerns and entrepreneurs impacted by a major disaster.

“(E) **PERFORMANCE.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, in cooperation with the recipients of financial assistance under this paragraph, shall establish metrics and goals for performance of grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under this paragraph, which shall include recovery of sales, recovery of employment, reestablishment of business premises, and establishment of new small business concerns.

“(ii) **USE OF ESTIMATES.**—The Administrator shall base the goals and metrics for performance established

under clause (i), in part, on the estimates of disaster impact prepared by the Office of Disaster Assistance for purposes of estimating loan-making requirements.

“(F) TERM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term of any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph shall be for not more than 2 years.

“(ii) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may make 1 extension of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph for a period of not more than 1 year, upon a showing of good cause and need for the extension.

“(G) EXEMPTION FROM OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Financial assistance provided under this paragraph is in addition to, and wholly separate from, any other form of assistance provided by the Administrator under this Act.

“(H) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—The Administration shall award financial assistance under this paragraph on a competitive basis.”

SEC. 2102. COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISASTER LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended in the third proviso—

- (1) by striking “\$14,000” and inserting “\$25,000”; and
- (2) by striking “major disaster” and inserting “disaster”.

Effective date.
15 USC 636 note.

(b) SUNSET.—Effective on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended in the third proviso—

- (1) by striking “\$25,000” and inserting “\$14,000”; and
- (2) by inserting “major” before “disaster”.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days before the date on which the amendments made by subsection (b) are to take effect, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the effects of the amendments made by subsection (a), which shall include—

Assessment.
Recommendation.

- (1) an assessment of the impact and benefits resulting from the amendments; and
- (2) a recommendation as to whether the amendments should be made permanent.

SEC. 2103. ASSISTANCE TO OUT-OF-STATE BUSINESS CONCERNS TO AID IN DISASTER RECOVERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(b)(3)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “(3) At the discretion” and inserting the following:

“(3) ASSISTANCE TO OUT-OF-STATE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

- “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Administrator, the Administrator may authorize a small business development center to provide advice, information, and assistance, as described in subsection (c), to a

small business concern located outside of the State, without regard to geographic proximity to the small business development center, if the small business concern is located in an area for which the President has declared a major disaster.

“(ii) TERM.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A small business development center may provide advice, information, and assistance to a small business concern under clause (i) for a period of not more than 2 years after the date on which the President declared a major disaster for the area in which the small business concern is located.

“(II) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may, at the discretion of the Administrator, extend the period described in subclause (I).

“(iii) CONTINUITY OF SERVICES.—A small business development center that provides counselors to an area described in clause (i) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure continuity of services in any State in which the small business development center otherwise provides services.

“(iv) ACCESS TO DISASTER RECOVERY FACILITIES.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, permit the personnel of a small business development center to use any site or facility designated by the Administrator for use to provide disaster recovery assistance.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, subject to the availability of funds, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration should, to the extent practicable, ensure that a small business development center is appropriately reimbursed for any legitimate expenses incurred in carrying out activities under section 21(b)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 2104. FAST PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 34(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (9) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) CATASTROPHIC INCIDENT.—The term ‘catastrophic incident’ means a major disaster that is comparable to the description of a catastrophic incident in the National Response Plan of the Administration, or any successor thereto.”.

(b) PRIORITY.—Section 34(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(vi)(III), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) shall give special consideration to an applicant that is located in an area affected by a catastrophic incident.”.

(c) **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—Section 34(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CATASTROPHIC INCIDENTS.**—Upon application by an applicant that receives an award or has in effect a cooperative agreement under this section and that is located in an area affected by a catastrophic incident, the Administrator may—

“(A) provide additional assistance to the applicant; and
 “(B) waive the matching requirements under subsection (e)(2).”

Waiver authority.

SEC. 2105. USE OF FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY IN DISASTER AREAS.

Section 7(j)(13)(F) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(13)(F)) is amended—

- (1) by inserting “(i)” after “(F)”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:

Definition.
Time period.

“(ii)(I) In this clause—

“(aa) the term ‘covered period’ means the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the President declared the applicable major disaster; and

“(bb) the term ‘disaster area’ means the area for which the President has declared a major disaster, during the covered period.

“(II) The Administrator may transfer technology or surplus property under clause (i) on a priority basis to a small business concern located in a disaster area if—

“(aa) the small business concern meets the requirements for such a transfer, without regard to whether the small business concern is a Program Participant; and

“(bb) for a small business concern that is a Program Participant, on and after the date on which the President declared the applicable major disaster, the small business concern has not received property under this subparagraph on the basis of the status of the small business concern as a Program Participant.

“(III) For any transfer of property under this clause to a small business concern, the terms and conditions shall be the same as a transfer to a Program Participant, except that the small business concern shall agree not to sell or transfer the property to any party other than the Federal Government during the covered period.

“(IV) A small business concern that receives a transfer of property under this clause may not receive a transfer of property under clause (i) during the covered period.

“(V) If a small business concern sells or transfers property in violation of the agreement described in subclause (III), the Administrator may initiate proceedings to prohibit the small business concern from receiving a transfer of property under this clause or clause (i), in addition to any other remedy available to the Administrator.”

SEC. 2106. RECOVERY OPPORTUNITY LOANS.

Section 7(a)(31) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(31)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) as clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following:

“(i) The term ‘disaster area’ means the area for which the President has declared a major disaster, during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the declaration.”; and

Definition.
Time period.

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) RECOVERY OPPORTUNITY LOANS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may guarantee an express loan to a small business concern located in a disaster area in accordance with this subparagraph.

“(ii) MAXIMUMS.—For a loan guaranteed under clause (i)—

“(I) the maximum loan amount is \$150,000; and

“(II) the guarantee rate shall be not more than 85 percent.

“(iii) OVERALL CAP.—A loan guaranteed under clause (i) shall not be counted in determining the amount of loans made to a borrower for purposes of subparagraph (D).

“(iv) OPERATIONS.—A small business concern receiving a loan guaranteed under clause (i) shall certify that the small business concern was in operation on the date on which the applicable major disaster occurred as a condition of receiving the loan.

Certification.

“(v) REPAYMENT ABILITY.—A loan guaranteed under clause (i) may only be made to a small business concern that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Administrator, sufficient capacity to repay the loan.

“(vi) TIMING OF PAYMENT OF GUARANTEES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a request for purchase is filed with the Administrator, the Administrator shall determine whether to pay the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Deadline.
Determination.

“(II) RECAPTURE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, unless there is a subsequent finding of fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction relating to a loan guaranteed under clause (i), on and after the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Administrator determines to pay the guaranteed portion of the loan, the Administrator may not attempt to recapture the paid guarantee.

“(vii) FEES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Unless the Administrator has waived the guarantee fee that would otherwise be collected by the Administrator under paragraph (18) for a loan guaranteed under clause (i), and except as provided in subclause (II), the guarantee fee for the loan shall be equal to the guarantee fee that the Administrator would collect if the guarantee rate for the loan was 50 percent.

Deadline.

“(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply if the cost of carrying out the program under this subsection in a fiscal year is more than zero and such cost is directly attributable to the cost of guaranteeing loans under clause (i).

“(viii) RULES.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Administrator shall promulgate rules to carry out this subparagraph.”.

SEC. 2107. CONTRACTOR MALFEASANCE.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (12), as added by section 2101 of this Act, the following:

“(13) SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONTRACTOR MALFEASANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a contractor or other person engages in malfeasance in connection with repairs to, rehabilitation of, or replacement of real or personal property relating to which a loan was made under this subsection and the malfeasance results in substantial economic damage to the recipient of the loan or substantial risks to health or safety, upon receiving documentation of the substantial economic damage or the substantial risk to health and safety from an independent loss verifier, and subject to subparagraph (B), the Administrator may increase the amount of the loan under this subsection, as necessary for the cost of repairs, rehabilitation, or replacement needed to address the cause of the economic damage or health or safety risk.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator may only increase the amount of a loan under subparagraph (A) upon receiving an appropriate certification from the borrower and person performing the mitigation attesting to the reasonableness of the mitigation costs and an assignment of any proceeds received from the person engaging in the malfeasance. The assignment of proceeds recovered from the person engaging in the malfeasance shall be equal to the amount of the loan under this section. Any mitigation activities shall be subject to audit and independent verification of completeness and cost reasonableness.”.

Audit.

SEC. 2108. LOCAL CONTRACTING PREFERENCES AND INCENTIVES.

Section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) CONTRACTING PREFERENCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN A MAJOR DISASTER AREA.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘disaster area’ means the area for which the President has declared a major disaster, during the period of the declaration.

“(2) CONTRACTING PREFERENCE.—An agency shall provide a contracting preference for a small business concern located in a disaster area if the small business concern will perform the work required under the contract in the disaster area.

“(3) CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.—If an agency awards a contract to a small business concern under the circumstances described in paragraph (2), the value of the contract shall be doubled for purposes of determining

compliance with the goals for procurement contracts under subsection (g)(1)(A).”.

SEC. 2109. CLARIFICATION OF COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended by inserting after “which are made under paragraph (1) of subsection (b)” the following: “: *Provided further*, That the Administrator, in obtaining the best available collateral for a loan of not more than \$200,000 under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) relating to damage to or destruction of the property of, or economic injury to, a small business concern, shall not require the owner of the small business concern to use the primary residence of the owner as collateral if the Administrator determines that the owner has other assets of equal quality and with a value equal to or greater than the amount of the loan that could be used as collateral for the loan: *Provided further*, That nothing in the preceding proviso may be construed to reduce the amount of collateral required by the Administrator in connection with a loan described in the preceding proviso or to modify the standards used to evaluate the quality (rather than the type) of such collateral”.

Determination.

TITLE II—DISASTER PLANNING AND MITIGATION

SEC. 2201. BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTERS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (13), as added by section 2108 of this Act, the following:

“(14) BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting through the district offices of the Administration, shall identify locations that may be used as recovery centers by the Administration in the event of a disaster declared under this subsection or a major disaster.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION.—Each district office of the Administration shall—

“(i) identify a location described in subparagraph (A) in each county, parish, or similar unit of general local government in the area served by the district office; and

“(ii) ensure that the locations identified under subparagraph (A) may be used as a recovery center without cost to the Government, to the extent practicable.”.

TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 2301. INCREASED OVERSIGHT OF ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (14), as added by section 2201 of this Act, the following:

“(15) INCREASED OVERSIGHT OF ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.—The Administrator shall increase oversight of entities receiving loans under paragraph (2), and may consider—

“(A) scheduled site visits to ensure borrower eligibility and compliance with requirements established by the Administrator; and

“(B) reviews of the use of the loan proceeds by an entity described in paragraph (2) to ensure compliance with requirements established by the Administrator.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO USING EXISTING FUNDS.—It is the sense of Congress that no additional Federal funds should be made available to carry out the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 2302. GAO REPORT ON PAPERWORK REDUCTION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report evaluating steps that the Small Business Administration has taken, with respect to the application for disaster assistance under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), to comply with subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”) and related guidance.

SEC. 2303. REPORT ON WEB PORTAL FOR DISASTER LOAN APPLICANTS.

Section 38 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657j) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REPORT ON WEB PORTAL FOR DISASTER LOAN APPLICATION STATUS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report relating to the creation of a web portal to track the status of applications for disaster assistance under section 7(b).

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) information on the progress of the Administration in implementing the information system under subsection (a);

“(B) recommendations from the Administration relating to the creation of a web portal for applicants to check the status of an application for disaster assistance under section 7(b), including a review of best practices and web portal models from the private sector;

“(C) information on any related costs or staffing needed to implement such a web portal;

“(D) information on whether such a web portal can maintain high standards for data privacy and data security;

“(E) information on whether such a web portal will minimize redundancy among Administration disaster programs, improve management of the number of inquiries made by disaster applicants to employees located in the area affected by the disaster and to call centers, and reduce paperwork burdens on disaster victims; and

Recommendations.

“(F) such additional information as is determined necessary by the Administrator.”.

Approved November 25, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 208 (S. 1811):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 114–186 (Comm. on Small Business).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 161 (2015):

July 13, considered and passed House.

Oct. 21, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Nov. 16, House concurred in Senate amendments.

