

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that unmet needs after a major disaster are met.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**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. UNMET NEED ASSISTANCE.**

4 Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
5 Emergency Assistance Act is amended by adding at the  
6 end the following:

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

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—After the declaration of a major  
3 disaster, the President may direct the Administrator of  
4 the Emergency Management Agency to provide, subject to  
5 amounts made available from appropriations, assistance  
6 necessary for meeting unmet needs as a result of such dis-  
7 aster.

8       “(b) FUNDING.—

9           “(1) AMOUNT OF FUNDING.—Subject to appro-  
10 priations and not later than 30 days after a declara-  
11 tion is made under section 401, the President acting  
12 through the Administrator may allocate an amount  
13 that equals up 10 percent of the estimated aggregate  
14 amount of the grants to be made pursuant to sec-  
15 tions 406 and 408 for the major disaster in order  
16 to provide technical and financial assistance under  
17 this section and such set aside shall be deemed to  
18 be related to activities carried out pursuant to major  
19 disasters under this Act.

20           “(2) ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—Not  
21 later than 180 days after each major disaster dec-  
22 laration pursuant to this Act, the estimated aggre-  
23 gate amount of grants for purposes of paragraph (1)  
24 shall be determined by the President and such esti-  
25 mated amount need not be reduced, increased, or  
26 changed due to variations in estimates.

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

6           “(e) UNMET NEEDS.—Financial assistance provided  
7           under this section may be used to provide assistance, in  
8           addition to other amounts made available under this Act,  
9           for the following unmet needs:

10           “(1) Disaster-related home repair and rebuild-  
11           ing assistance to families for permanent housing  
12           purposes, including in conjunction with eligible ex-  
13           penditures under section 408.

14           “(2) Disaster-related unmet needs of families  
15           who are unable to obtain adequate assistance from  
16           other sources.

17           “(3) Other services that alleviate human suf-  
18           fering and promote the well-being of disaster vic-  
19           tims.

20           “(4) Economic and business activities (includ-  
21           ing food and agriculture) after a disaster to imple-  
22           ment post-disaster economic recovery measures, in-  
23           cluding planning and technical assistance for long-  
24           term economic recovery plans, infrastructure im-  
25           provements, business or infrastructure financing,

1 market or industry research, and other activities au-  
2 thorized under a comprehensive economic develop-  
3 ment strategy.

4 “(d) ACCOUNTING AND FISCAL CONTROLS.—

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

9 “(A) the criteria established for deter-  
10 mining how the funds are spent;

11 “(B) the allocation of those funds; and

12 “(C) the process for public notice and com-  
13 ment.

14 “(2) COMPLIANCE.—Any individual who re-  
15 ceives assistance pursuant to this section shall com-  
16 ply with section 312(b).

17 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State that re-  
18 ceives funds under this section may expend not more  
19 than 5 percent of the amount of such funds for the  
20 administrative costs of providing financial assistance  
21 to individuals and households in the State.”.

22 **SEC. 2. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

23 Section 408(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
24 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is  
25 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2)(A)(i) by striking “to a  
2 safe and sanitary living or functioning condition”  
3 and inserting “to ensure that their home is habitable  
4 during longer term recovery. Assistance allowed  
5 under this section may be used in coordination with  
6 other sources for the repair and rebuilding of an  
7 owner-occupied residence.”; and

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

15 **SEC. 3. REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**

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

