

Union Calendar No. 668

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9121

[Report No. 118-817]

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian Tribal Governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Additional sponsor: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian Tribal Governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, and for other purposes.

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 “Fire Management As-

5 sistance Grants for Tribal Governments Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ELIGIBILITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 420 of the Robert T.
8 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 5187) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, Indian
11 tribal government,” before “or local government”;

12 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e)
13 as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

14 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(b) PROCEDURE FOR REQUEST.—The Governor of
17 a State or the Chief Executive of an Indian tribal govern-
18 ment affected by a fire described in subsection (a) may
19 directly submit a request to authorize assistance under
20 this section.”; and

21 (4) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
23 shall prohibit an Indian tribal government from receiving
24 assistance under this section pursuant to an authorization
25 made at the request of a State under subsection (b) if

1 assistance is not authorized under this section for the
2 same incident based on a request by the Indian tribal gov-
3 ernment under subsection (b).”.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—

5 (1) FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE DECLARA-
6 TION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “fire
7 management assistance declaration” means a dec-
8 laration approved under section 204.21(a) of title
9 44, Code of Federal Regulations.

10 (2) UPDATE.—Not later than 360 days after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the President
12 shall issue regulations updating part 204 of title 44,
13 Code of Federal Regulations, to carry out the
14 amendments made by subsection (a).

15 (3) CONTENTS.—In issuing the regulations re-
16 quired under paragraph (2), the President shall—

17 (A) authorize the Federal Emergency Man-
18 agement Agency to directly receive a request for
19 a fire management assistance declaration from
20 an Indian Tribal Government and directly pro-
21 vide related grants and resources to Indian
22 Tribal Governments;

23 (B) clarify that Indian Tribal Governments
24 for which the President does not grant a re-
25 quest described in subparagraph (A) remain eli-

1 gible to receive assistance under section 420 of
2 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
3 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187)
4 through assistance granted under a fire man-
5 agement assistance declaration made at the re-
6 quest of a State;

7 (C) consider the unique conditions that af-
8 fect the general welfare of Indian Tribal Gov-
9 ernments; and

10 (D) enter into government-to-government
11 consultation with Indian Tribal Governments
12 regarding the regulations.

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