

Union Calendar No. 663

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9750

[Report No. 118–811]

To authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Mr. ROUZER (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and Mr. EDWARDS

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 23, 2024]

A BILL

To authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*
 5 *“Natural Disaster Recovery Program Act of 2024”.*

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.*
- Sec. 2. Natural Disaster Recovery Program.*
- Sec. 3. Unmet needs assistance.*
- Sec. 4. Further considerations for disaster declarations.*
- Sec. 5. Repair and rebuilding.*
- Sec. 6. FEMA Emergency Home Repair Program.*
- Sec. 7. Appeals of individuals and households program benefits.*
- Sec. 8. Report to Congress on major disaster declarations.*
- Sec. 9. Review by Comptroller General.*
- Sec. 10. GAO study on timing of closing out disaster recovery.*

8 **SEC. 2. NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.**

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Robert T. Stafford Disaster*
 10 *Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et*
 11 *seq.) is amended by adding at the end of title IV the fol-*
 12 *lowing:*

13 **“SEC. 431. NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.**

14 **“(a) NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY RESERVE**
 15 **FUND.**—

16 **“(1) IN GENERAL.**—*There is established in the*
 17 *Treasury of the United States an account to be known*
 18 *as the Natural Disaster Recovery Reserve Fund (in*
 19 *this section referred to as the ‘Fund’).*

20 **“(2) AMOUNTS.**—*The Fund shall consist of—*

1 “(A) any amounts appropriated, and depos-
2 ited in the Fund, for a specific major disaster
3 declared under section 401; and

4 “(B) amounts deposited into the Fund pur-
5 suant to paragraph (4).

6 “(3) *USE OF FUNDS.*—Amounts in the Fund
7 shall be available, pursuant to a declaration of a
8 major disaster—

9 “(A) to States and Indian tribal govern-
10 ments for unmet need related to a major disaster
11 is declared under section 401; and

12 “(B) with respect to grantees that have been
13 allocated assistance for such unmet need, for
14 technical assistance and capacity building under
15 subsection (c)(2) to facilitate planning and in-
16 crease capacity to administer assistance under
17 this section.

18 “(4) *UNUSED AMOUNTS.*—If any amounts made
19 available for assistance under this section to grantees
20 remain unexpended on the earlier of—

21 “(A) the date that the grantee of such
22 amounts notifies the President that the grantee
23 has completed all activities; or

24 “(B) except as provided in paragraph (5),
25 the expiration of the 6-year period beginning

1 *when the President obligates such amounts to the*
2 *grantee, the President shall transfer such unex-*
3 *pende d amounts to the Secretary of the Treasury*
4 *for deposit into the Fund, except that the Presi-*
5 *dent may permit the grantee to retain amounts*
6 *needed to close out the grant.*

7 “(5) *EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR USE OF*
8 *FUNDS.—The period under paragraph (4)(B) may be*
9 *extended by not more than 4 years if, before the expi-*
10 *ration of such 6-year period, the President waives this*
11 *requirement and submits a written justification for*
12 *such waiver to the Committees on Appropriations of*
13 *the House of Representatives and the Senate that*
14 *specifies the period of such extension.*

15 “(b) *ASSESSMENT OF UNMET NEED.—*

16 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—To assess unmet need with*
17 *respect to a major disaster under section, not later*
18 *than 90 days after the declaration of such a disaster,*
19 *the President shall coordinate with other Federal*
20 *agencies, as determined appropriate and including*
21 *the Administrator of the Small Business Administra-*
22 *tion, to obtain data on all recovery needs and the*
23 *amount of such recovery needs that are unmet, in-*
24 *cluding—*

1 “(A) all data on damage caused by the dis-
2 aster;

3 “(B) information on how any Federal as-
4 sistance provided in connection with the disaster
5 has been expended;

6 “(C) information on the effect of the disaster
7 on education, transportation capabilities and de-
8 pendence, housing needs, health care capacity,
9 and displacement of persons; and

10 “(D) the extent of the unmet need remain-
11 ing in relation to such disaster.

12 “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The President shall
13 make publicly available the data described in para-
14 graph (1) for any major disaster for which assistance
15 is provided from the Fund under this section.

16 “(3) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE
17 INFORMATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the
18 President and any recipient of funds under this sec-
19 tion shall take such actions as may be necessary to
20 ensure that personally identifiable information re-
21 garding recipients of assistance provided under this
22 section is not made publicly available by any agency
23 with which information is shared pursuant to this
24 subsection.

25 “(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—A State or Indian tribal
2 government receiving a grant under this section may
3 use not more than 13 percent of the amount of grant
4 funds received, or within such other percentage as
5 may be established pursuant to subparagraph (B), for
6 administrative costs, including costs related to audits,
7 reviews, oversight, evaluation, and investigations.

8 “(2) *DISCRETION TO ESTABLISH SLIDING*
9 *SCALE.*—The President may establish a series of per-
10 centage limitations on the amount of grant funds re-
11 ceived that may be used by a grantee for administra-
12 tive costs, but only if—

13 “(A) such percentage limitations are based
14 on the amount of grant funds received by a
15 grantee; and

16 “(B) such series provides that the percent-
17 age that may be used is lower for grantees receiv-
18 ing a greater amount of grant funds and such
19 percentage that may be used is higher for grant-
20 ees receiving a lesser amount of grant funds.

21 “(3) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; CAPACITY BUILD-*
22 *ING.*—From funds made available for use under this
23 section, the President may provide—

1 “(A) *necessary technical assistance to grant-*
2 *ees to ensure grantees are compliant with Fed-*
3 *eral law; and*

4 “(B) *capacity building assistance, including*
5 *assistance regarding contracting and procure-*
6 *ment processes, including providing solicitation*
7 *and contractual templates that conform to Fed-*
8 *eral requirements for use by grantees.*

9 “(d) *ALLOCATION, PROCESS, AND PROCEDURES; CO-*
10 *ORDINATION.—*

11 “(1) *ALLOCATION.—*

12 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The President shall al-*
13 *locate funds under this section proportionally to*
14 *grantees based on their level of unmet need as de-*
15 *termined under subsection (b).*

16 “(B) *GRANTEE USE OF FUNDS.—Each*
17 *grantee—*

18 “(i) *shall be solely responsible for de-*
19 *termining how funds provided under this*
20 *section are prioritized and expended; and*

21 “(ii) *shall not be required to provide*
22 *an action or spending plan to the President*
23 *before or after funds are allocated.*

24 “(C) *LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding section*
25 *312, a loan shall not—*

1 “(i) be considered a duplication of ben-
2 efits with funds provided by a Federal agen-
3 cy; or

4 “(ii) limit or otherwise impact the
5 ability of a recipient to receive any other
6 Federal assistance.

7 “(2) *PROCEDURE FOR PROVISION OF FUNDS.*—
8 An entity awarded a grant under this section shall be
9 provided an initial amount that equals 50 percent of
10 total grant amount allocated under paragraph (1). To
11 be eligible for the remaining 50 percent of the alloca-
12 tion, a grantee shall submit to the Committees on Ap-
13 propriations of the House of Representatives and the
14 Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
15 structure of the House of Representatives, the Com-
16 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
17 fairs of the Senate, and the Inspector General of the
18 United States a report containing—

19 “(A) a detailed description of how such
20 amount was spent; and

21 “(B) a certification from an auditor of the
22 State or Indian tribal government that none of
23 the funds were wasted or used inappropriately.

24 “(3) *REQUIREMENTS.*—Each State and Indian
25 tribal government that receives funds under this sec-

1 *tion shall establish or adhere to existing guidelines for*
2 *procurement processes and procedures and require*
3 *that subgrantees—*

4 *“(A) provide for full and open competition*
5 *and require cost or price analysis;*

6 *“(B) specify methods of procurement and*
7 *their applicability, but not allow cost-plus-a-per-*
8 *centage-of cost or percentage-of-construction-cost*
9 *methods of procurement;*

10 *“(C) include standards of conduct governing*
11 *employees engaged in the award or administra-*
12 *tion of contracts; and*

13 *“(D) ensure that all purchase orders and*
14 *contracts include any clauses required by Fed-*
15 *eral statute, Executive order, or implementing*
16 *regulation.*

17 *“(e) FUNDING.—Any funds provided under this sec-*
18 *tion—*

19 *“(1) shall supplement and not supplant any*
20 *other assistance provided by the President or any*
21 *other Federal agency in response to a major disaster;*
22 *and*

23 *“(2) may not be considered a duplication of as-*
24 *sistance.*

1 “(f) *ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.*—*Any Federal agency*
2 *or recipient of funds received under this section that fund*
3 *or use funds to supplement funds provided under section*
4 *402, 403, 404, 406, 407, 408(c)(4), 428, or 502 may adopt,*
5 *without review or public comment, any environmental re-*
6 *view, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency.*

7 “(g) *BEST PRACTICES.*—*The President shall identify*
8 *best practices for grantees on issues including developing*
9 *action plans, establishing financial controls, building*
10 *grantee technical and administrative capacity, procure-*
11 *ment, and use of grant funds as local match for other*
12 *sources of Federal funding. Not later than 1 year after the*
13 *date of enactment of this section, the President shall publish*
14 *a compilation of such identified best practices and share*
15 *with all relevant grantees to facilitate a more efficient and*
16 *effective disaster recovery process.*

17 “(h) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

18 “(1) *STATE AUDITOR.*—*The term ‘State auditor’*
19 *means the individual selected by the Governor or head*
20 *of an Indian tribal government to submit a certifi-*
21 *cation in accordance with subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).*

22 “(2) *UNMET NEED.*—*The term ‘unmet need’—*

23 “(A) *means any necessary expenses for ac-*
24 *tivities related to disaster relief, resiliency, long-*
25 *term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and*

1 *housing, mitigation, and economic revitalization*
2 *related to a major disaster declared by the Presi-*
3 *dent under section 401; and*

4 “(B) may include—

5 “(i) any unresourced item, support, or
6 *assistance that has been assessed and*
7 *verified as necessary for a survivor to re-*
8 *cover from a major disaster, including food,*
9 *clothing, shelter, first aid, emotional and*
10 *spiritual care, household items, home re-*
11 *pair, or rebuilding; and*

12 “(ii) cleaning and removing debris
13 *from rivers, creeks, streams, and ditches.”.*

14 (b) *LIMITATION.*—No amounts made available by an
15 *appropriations Act that provide funding for any activity*
16 *not authorized by law for the program established under*
17 *section 431 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
18 *Emergency Assistance Act (as added by this Act) may be*
19 *expended.*

20 **SEC. 3. UNMET NEEDS ASSISTANCE.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford
22 *Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.*
23 *5170 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

1 **“SEC. 432. UNMET NEEDS ASSISTANCE.**

2 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*In any major disaster, the Gov-*
3 *ernor or the Chief Executive of the Indian tribal government*
4 *may request a grant from the President to provide assist-*
5 *ance to meet unmet needs resulting from a major disaster.*

6 “(b) *FUNDING.*—

7 “(1) *AMOUNT OF FUNDING.*—*The President may*
8 *set aside from the Disaster Relief Fund, with respect*
9 *to each major disaster, an amount equal to 10 percent*
10 *of the estimated aggregate amount of the grants to be*
11 *made pursuant to sections 406 and 408 of the major*
12 *disaster in order to provide technical and financial*
13 *assistance under this section and such amounts shall*
14 *be deemed to be related to activities carried out pur-*
15 *suant to major disasters under this Act.*

16 “(2) *ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT.*—*Not*
17 *later than 180 days after each major disaster declared*
18 *pursuant to this Act, the estimated aggregate amount*
19 *of grants for purposes of paragraph (1) shall be deter-*
20 *mined by the President and such estimated amount*
21 *need not be reduced, increased, or changed due to*
22 *variations in estimates.*

23 “(3) *NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.*—*The amount*
24 *set aside pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce*
25 *the amounts otherwise made available for sections*
26 *403, 406, 407, 408, 410, 416, and 428 under this Act.*

1 “(c) *UNMET NEEDS.*—A State or Indian tribal govern-
2 ment may use unmet needs grants to provide assistance,
3 in addition to other assistance made available under this
4 Act, for the following unmet needs resulting from a major
5 disaster:

6 “(1) *Disaster-related home repair and rebuilding*
7 *financial assistance to families for permanent housing*
8 *purposes, including in conjunction with eligible ex-*
9 *penditures under section 408.*

10 “(2) *Disaster-related unmet needs of families*
11 *who are unable to obtain adequate assistance from*
12 *other sources.*

13 “(3) *Other disaster-related services that alleviate*
14 *human suffering and promote the well-being of dis-*
15 *aster victims.*

16 “(4) *Economic and business activities (including*
17 *food and agriculture) after a disaster to implement*
18 *post-disaster economic recovery measures, including*
19 *planning and technical assistance for long-term eco-*
20 *nomics recovery plans, infrastructure improvements,*
21 *business or infrastructure financing, market or indus-*
22 *try research, and other activities authorized under a*
23 *comprehensive economic development strategy.*

24 “(d) *ACCOUNTING AND FISCAL CONTROLS.*—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 6 months
2 after receipt of funds and every 6 months thereafter
3 until all such funds are expended, each State or In-
4 dian tribal government receiving such funds shall
5 submit to the Administrator a report that includes—

6 “(A) the criteria established for determining
7 how the funds are spent;

8 “(B) the allocation of such funds; and

9 “(C) the process for public notice and com-
10 ment.

11 “(2) *ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.*—A State or In-
12 dian tribal government that receives funds under this
13 section may expend not more than 5 percent of the
14 amount of such funds for the administrative costs of
15 providing financial assistance to individuals and
16 households in the State.”.

17 (b) *APPLICABILITY.*—This section and the amendments
18 made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on
19 or after the date of enactment of this Act.

20 **SEC. 4. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISASTER DEC-**
21 **LARATIONS.**

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—In making recommendations to the
23 President regarding the declaration of a major disaster or
24 emergency pursuant to section 401 or 501 of the Robert T.
25 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42

1 *U.S.C. 5170; 5191) or the proposed non-Federal share of*
2 *the cost of carrying out activities with assistance provided*
3 *under such Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emer-*
4 *gency Management Agency shall give greater weight and*
5 *consideration to severe local impact resulting from such dis-*
6 *aster or emergency and, in the 5-year period preceding such*
7 *disaster or emergency, whether multiple other disasters or*
8 *emergencies have occurred in the affected area.*

9 **(b) REVISIONS TO GUIDANCE, POLICIES, AND REGULA-**
10 *TIONS.—The Administrator shall take such actions as are*
11 *necessary to revise any policies, guidance, or regulations*
12 *of the Agency to implement subsection (a).*

13 **(c) REPORT.—***Not later than 1 year after the date of*
14 *enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit*
15 *to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of*
16 *the House of Representatives and the Committee on Home-*
17 *land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a*
18 *report on the implementation of this section and shall in-*
19 *clude in such report a description of—*

20 **(1)** *changes made to guidance, policies, or regu-*
21 *lations pursuant to subsection (b); and*

22 **(2)** *the number of major disasters and emer-*
23 *gencies that have been declared pursuant to section*
24 *401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*

1 *Emergency Assistance Act based on the criteria de-*
2 *scribed in subsection (a).*

3 **SEC. 5. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

4 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T.*
5 *Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42*
6 *U.S.C. 5174) is amended—*

7 *(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-*
8 *lows:*

9 *“(2) REPAIRS.—*

10 *“(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RE-*
11 *PAIRS.—The President may provide financial*
12 *assistance for the repair of owner-occupied pri-*
13 *vate residences, utilities, and residential infra-*
14 *structure (such as a private access route) dam-*
15 *aged by a major disaster, or with respect to indi-*
16 *viduals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by*
17 *a major disaster.*

18 *“(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—*

19 *“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President may*
20 *provide direct assistance to individuals and*
21 *households who are unable to make use of fi-*
22 *nancial assistance under subparagraph (A)*
23 *and when there is a lack of available re-*
24 *sources, for—*

1 “(I) the repair of owner-occupied
2 private residences, utilities, and resi-
3 dential infrastructure (such as a pri-
4 vate access route) damaged by a major
5 disaster, or with respect to individuals
6 with disabilities, rendered inaccessible
7 by a disaster; and

8 “(II) eligible hazard mitigation
9 measures that reduce the likelihood and
10 future damage to such residences, utili-
11 ties, and infrastructure.

12 “(ii) *ELIGIBILITY*.—A recipient of as-
13 sistance under this subparagraph shall not
14 be eligible for assistance under paragraph
15 (1), unless otherwise determined by the Ad-
16 ministrator.

17 “(iii) *COORDINATION WITH OTHER AS-*
18 *SISTANCE*.—Assistance allowed under this
19 paragraph may be used in coordination
20 with other sources for the repair and re-
21 building of an owner-occupied residence.

22 “(C) *RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-*
23 *ANCE*.—A recipient of assistance provided under
24 this paragraph shall not be required to show that

1 *the assistance can be met through other means,*
2 *except insurance proceeds.”; and*

3 (2) *in paragraph (4) by striking “in cases in*
4 *which” and all that follows through the end of the*
5 *paragraph and inserting “if the President considers it*
6 *a cost effective alternative to other housing solutions,*
7 *including the costs associated with temporary housing*
8 *provided under this section, and long-term rebuilding*
9 *costs associated with section 431.”.*

10 (b) *ELIGIBILITY.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert T.*
11 *Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42*
12 *U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—*

13 (1) *by striking “rendered uninhabitable” and in-*
14 *serting “damaged by a major disaster”; and*

15 (2) *by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of*
16 *damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting*
17 *“damaged by a major disaster”.*

18 (c) *APPLICABILITY.—This section and the amendments*
19 *made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on*
20 *or after the date of enactment of this Act.*

21 **SEC. 6. FEMA EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM.**

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Section 403(a) of the Robert T.*
23 *Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42*
24 *U.S.C. 5170b(a)) is amended—*

25 (1) *in paragraph (3)—*

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

3 (B) in subparagraph (J) by striking the pe-
4 riod and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(K) minor repairs up to habitability of
7 owner-occupied homes damaged by the disaster
8 in order for survivors to safely shelter in place,
9 subject to the availability of appropriations.”;
10 and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(5) *SHELTERING AND HOUSING OPTIONS.*—Not
13 later than 15 days after a declaration of a major dis-
14 aster, the Federal coordinating officer shall identify
15 all sheltering and housing options available under
16 this section or section 408 to a State Governor, or the
17 designated State coordinating officer.

18 “(6) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this subsection, the term
19 ‘minor repairs up to habitability’ means the min-
20 imum standards for permanent housing described in
21 section 576.403(c) of title 24, Code of Federal Regula-
22 tions (or successor regulations).”.

23 (b) *RULEMAKING.*—Not later than 2 years after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Fed-

1 eral Emergency Management Agency shall issue final regu-
2 lations to implement the amendments made by this section.

3 **SEC. 7. APPEALS OF INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS PRO-**
4 **GRAM BENEFITS.**

5 (a) *PERIOD OF ASSISTANCE.*—Clauses (iii) and (iv)
6 of section 408(c)(1)(B) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
7 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
8 5174(c)(1)(B)) are amended by striking “18-month period”
9 and inserting “24-month period”.

10 (b) *APPEALS.*—The Administrator shall revise section
11 206.115 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, to require
12 the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide to
13 any applicant who appeals a determination of eligibility
14 of assistance—

15 (1) any documentation used to make such deter-
16 mination, including any inspection documents that
17 exist;

18 (2) a description of—

19 (A) the reasons for such determination; and

20 (B) recommended steps that could be taken
21 to remedy a determination of ineligibility, in-
22 cluding, as applicable, a list of additional docu-
23 mentation that the applicant may provide; and

24 (3) any inspection documents that exist not later
25 than 10 days after the completion of the inspection.

1 (c) *APPLICABILITY.*—*This section and the amendment*
2 *made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on*
3 *or after the date of enactment of this Act.*

4 **SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON MAJOR DISASTER DEC-**
5 **LARATIONS.**

6 *Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment*
7 *of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee*
8 *on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the*
9 *Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infra-*
10 *structure of the House of Representatives a report con-*
11 *taining the following information with respect to each*
12 *major disaster declared pursuant to section 401 of the Rob-*
13 *ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance*
14 *Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) during the 5-year period preceding*
15 *such date of enactment:*

16 (1) *The process used by the Federal Emergency*
17 *Management Agency to determine individual house-*
18 *hold need.*

19 (2) *An itemization of the most common reasons*
20 *for denial of individual and household assistance pur-*
21 *suant to section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-*
22 *aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.*
23 *5174).*

24 (3) *The rate of appeals of denial of such assist-*
25 *ance.*

1 (4) *The amount of time the Agency takes to issue*
2 *a decision regarding eligibility for individual assist-*
3 *ance, disaggregated by each such major disaster.*

4 (5) *Information on the use of Disaster Legal*
5 *Services and the number of applicants who were eligi-*
6 *ble for such services.*

7 (6) *The total number of Disaster Legal Services*
8 *volunteers as of such date of enactment.*

9 (7) *The number of such volunteers who were acti-*
10 *ivated for each such major disaster.*

11 (8) *The amount of time taken after the declara-*
12 *tion of each such major disaster to set up disaster re-*
13 *covery centers that provide access to individual assist-*
14 *ance.*

15 (9) *The number of disaster recovery centers*
16 *opened for each such major disaster.*

17 (10) *The process used for selecting the location of*
18 *such disaster recovery centers.*

19 (11) *The average amount of time disaster recov-*
20 *ery centers remained open.*

21 (12) *The average amount of time individual sur-*
22 *vivors spend at such centers.*

23 (13) *A description of outreach efforts in low-in-*
24 *come, rural, and underserved communities regarding*
25 *the availability of assistance provided by the Federal*

1 *Emergency Management Agency under the Robert T.*
2 *Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance*
3 *Act.*

4 **SEC. 9. REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**

5 *Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of*
6 *this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States*
7 *shall—*

8 (1) *conduct a review of the fiscal controls of*
9 *States that receive assistance under section 432 of the*
10 *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-*
11 *sistance Act, as added by section 3; and*

12 (2) *make recommendations regarding the pro-*
13 *gram established under such section to the Committee*
14 *on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of*
15 *the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and*
16 *Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.*

17 **SEC. 10. GAO STUDY ON TIMING OF CLOSING OUT DIS-**
18 **ASTER RECOVERY.**

19 *Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of*
20 *this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall*
21 *submit to Congress a report on how long it takes the Admin-*
22 *istrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to*
23 *officially close out each major disaster declared under the*
24 *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-*
25 *ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) pursuant to section 705*

- 1 *of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency*
- 2 *Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5205).*

Union Calendar No. 663

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9750

[Report No. 118-811]

A BILL

To authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed