

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 57

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to make improvements in the provision of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2011

Mr. SCALISE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to make improvements in the provision of Federal disaster assistance, 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 “Disaster Recovery Im-  
5       provement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND REPLACEMENT OF**  
2 **DAMAGED FACILITIES.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
4 of this Act, the President shall issue and begin to imple-  
5 ment the regulations required by section 406(e)(3)(C) of  
6 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
7 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172(e)(3)(C)) to provide for cost  
8 estimation procedures that expedite recovery and to reduce  
9 the costs and time for completion of recovery projects  
10 through the creation of financial and performance incen-  
11 tives.

12 **SEC. 3. APPEALS PROCESS.**

13 Section 423(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
14 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189a(b))  
15 is amended to read as follows:

16 “(b) PERIOD FOR DECISION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A decision regarding an ap-  
18 peal under subsection (a) shall be rendered within  
19 60 days after the date on which the Federal official  
20 designated to administer such appeal receives notice  
21 of such appeal.

22 “(2) FAILURE TO SATISFY DEADLINE.—If the  
23 Federal official fails to satisfy the requirement  
24 under paragraph (1), the Federal official shall pro-  
25 vide a written explanation of such failure to the ap-  
26 plicant. The President shall transmit quarterly to

1 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2 of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
3 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of  
4 the Senate a report on such failures.”.

5 **SEC. 4. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE FACTORS.**

6 In order to provide more objective criteria for evalu-  
7 ating the need for assistance to individuals and to speed  
8 a declaration of a major disaster or emergency under the  
9 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
10 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), not later than 180 days  
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
12 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in co-  
13 operation with representatives of State and local emer-  
14 gency management agencies, shall review, update, and re-  
15 vise through rulemaking the factors considered under sec-  
16 tion 206.48 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, to  
17 measure the severity, magnitude, and impact of a disaster.

18 **SEC. 5. HOUSEHOLD PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS.**

19 Section 502(a) of Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
20 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5192(a)) is  
21 amended—

22 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
23 (7);

24 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
25 graph (8) and inserting “; and”; and

1           (3) by adding at the end the following:

2           “(9) provide assistance for rescue, care, shelter,  
3           and essential needs—

4                   “(A) to individuals with household pets  
5                   and service animals; and

6                   “(B) to such pets and animals.”.

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