

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1223

To revise the treatment of urbanized areas experiencing population changes following a major disaster.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 20, 2021

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To revise the treatment of urbanized areas experiencing population changes following a major disaster.

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 “Giving Relief to Amer-
5 ican Communities in Emergencies Act” or the “GRACE
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. URBANIZED AREAS.**

8 (a) EXTENSION OF TREATMENT OF URBANIZED
9 AREAS.—Section 21101 of division B of the Bipartisan
10 Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123; 132 Stat. 103)

1 is amended by striking “and 2020” and inserting “2020,
2 2021, and 2022”.

3 (b) CENSUS DISCRETION.—Section 5324 of title 49,
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(f) CENSUS DISCRETION.—

7 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8 “(A) DISASTER-RELATED POPULATION DE-
9 CREASE.—The term ‘disaster-related population
10 decrease’, with respect to an urbanized area,
11 means that—

12 “(i) the population of the urbanized
13 area decreases to be less than 50,000 indi-
14 viduals, as determined in a decennial cen-
15 sus after the decennial census in which the
16 area was designated as an urbanized area;
17 and

18 “(ii) the decrease described in clause
19 (i) is a result of a major disaster declared
20 by the President under section 401 of the
21 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
22 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
23 5170).

24 “(B) URBANIZED AREA.—The term ‘ur-
25 banized area’ means an area designated in a de-

1 cennial census as an urbanized area by the Sec-
2 retary of Commerce.

3 “(2) ELECTION.—On request by the Governor
4 of a State in which an urbanized area that experi-
5 ences a disaster-related population decrease is lo-
6 cated, the Secretary may elect for the purposes of
7 this chapter, including for purposes of making ap-
8 portionments under this chapter—

9 “(A) to use the population of the urban-
10 ized area, as determined in the decennial census
11 before the most recent decennial census; and

12 “(B) to continue to treat the area as an
13 urbanized area.”.

○