

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1946

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 27, 2021

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, 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 “Preventing Disaster
5 Revictimization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY.**

2 Section 1216(a) of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act
3 of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a(a)) is amended—

4 (1) by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as
5 follows:

6 “(A) except as provided in subparagraph
7 (B), shall—

8 “(i) waive a debt owed to the United
9 States related to covered assistance pro-
10 vided to an individual or household if the
11 covered assistance was distributed based
12 on an error by the Agency and such debt
13 shall be construed as a hardship; and

14 “(ii) waive a debt owed to the United
15 States related to covered assistance pro-
16 vided to an individual or household if such
17 assistance is subject to a claim or legal ac-
18 tion, including in accordance with section
19 317 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
20 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
21 U.S.C. 5160); and”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

23 (A) by striking “REMOVAL OF” and insert-
24 ing “REPORT ON”; and

25 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “the author-
26 ity of the Administrator to waive debt under

1 paragraph (2) shall no longer be effective” and
2 inserting “the Administrator shall report to the
3 Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
4 ture of the House of Representatives and the
5 Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
6 mental Affairs of the Senate actions that the
7 Administrator will take to reduce the error
8 rate”.

9 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

10 The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-
11 agement Agency shall submit to the Committee on Trans-
12 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
13 tives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
14 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a de-
15 scription of the internal processes used to make decisions
16 regarding the distribution of covered assistance under sec-
17 tion 1216 of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of
18 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a) and any changes made to such
19 processes.

20 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

21 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
22 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
23 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
24 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
25 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record

1 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
2 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
3 vote on passage.

