

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3689

To ensure that, after the declaration of a major disaster, States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments affected by the major disaster receive immediate approval for services and assistance under section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To ensure that, after the declaration of a major disaster, States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments affected by the major disaster receive immediate approval for services and assistance under section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

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 “Crisis Counseling Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**

2 Section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
3 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5183) is
4 amended—

5 (1) by striking “The President is authorized”
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized”;
8 and

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

10 “(b) IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State or local agency, or
12 an Indian tribal government, that is affected by a
13 major disaster may submit to the President a re-
14 quest for the financial assistance described in sub-
15 section (a).

16 “(2) IMMEDIATE APPROVAL.—Immediately
17 upon receipt of a request for financial assistance
18 under paragraph (1), the President shall—

19 “(A) approve the request; and

20 “(B) grant the financial assistance.”.

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