

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1393

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of certain mitigation projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2025

Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of certain mitigation projects, 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 “Wildfire Response Im-
5 provement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POL-**
2 **ICY.**

3 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
5 Management Agency shall recommend such regulations or
6 guidance as are necessary to make eligible assessments
7 and emergency stabilization to protect public safety, in-
8 cluding for the fire management assistance program under
9 section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
10 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), irrespective
11 of the incident period for a declared fire.

12 **SEC. 3. CHANGES TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE POLICY GUIDE.**

13 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
15 Management Agency shall amend the Public Assistance
16 Program and Policy Guide of the Federal Emergency
17 Management Agency to include guidance on wildfire-spe-
18 cific recovery challenges, including debris removal, emer-
19 gency protective measures, and the resulting toxicity of
20 drinking water resources.

21 **SEC. 4. MITIGATION COST-EFFECTIVENESS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
23 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a review of
24 the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of projects
25 intended to mitigate the impacts of wildfire under sections
26 203 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief

1 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c),
2 including—

3 (1) the establishment of pre-calculated benefits
4 criterion for common defensible space mitigation
5 projects for wildfire mitigation;

6 (2) the use of nature-based infrastructure in
7 wildfire mitigation;

8 (3) considerations for vegetation management
9 for wildfire mitigation;

10 (4) reducing the negative effects of wildfire
11 smoke on public health; and

12 (5) lessening the impact of wildfires on water
13 infrastructure.

14 (b) UPDATED CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
16 issue such guidance as is necessary to—

17 (1) update criteria for evaluating the cost-effec-
18 tiveness of mitigation projects under sections 203
19 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
20 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133;
21 5170c) based on the results of the review conducted
22 under subsection (a); and

23 (2) prioritize projects under such sections based
24 on the criteria updated under paragraph (1).

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