

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 374

To establish a pilot program for property acquisition projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Mr. LANKFORD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish a pilot program for property acquisition 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 “Direct Property Acqui-
5 sitions Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
9 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
10 Emergency Management Agency.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
5 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

6 (B) the Committee on Transportation and
7 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

8 (3) COVERED COMMUNITY.—The term “covered
9 community” means a local government determined
10 by the Administrator to be able to meet relevant
11 Federal and State statutory and regulatory require-
12 ments for hazard mitigation assistance—

13 (A) with limited assistance from the State
14 in which the local government is located; and

15 (B) for which the Administrator received
16 positive feedback from the State in which the
17 local government is located relating to eligibility
18 for the pilot program.

19 (4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT; STATE.—The terms
20 “local government” and “State” have the meanings
21 given those terms in section 102 of the Robert T.
22 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

1 (5) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-
 2 gram” means the pilot program established under
 3 subsection (b).

4 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall
 5 carry out a pilot program under which covered commu-
 6 nities may directly apply to the Administrator for hazard
 7 mitigation assistance for the purposes of property acquisi-
 8 tion and structure demolition or relocation assistance
 9 under section 404(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
 10 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
 11 5170c(b)).

12 (c) SELECTION.—

13 (1) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether
 14 a local government is a covered community for pur-
 15 poses of the pilot program, the Administrator
 16 shall—

17 (A) consult with the State in which the
 18 local government is located before determining
 19 the suitability of the local government for the
 20 pilot program; and

21 (B) provide a written justification to the
 22 local government and the State in which the
 23 local government is located for selecting or not
 24 selecting the local government for the pilot pro-
 25 gram, which shall be based on—

1 (i) the prior performance and current
2 processes of the local government relating
3 to property acquisitions and other hazard
4 mitigation projects;

5 (ii) the level of need in the local gov-
6 ernment in conducting or completing fu-
7 ture or ongoing property acquisition and
8 structure demolition or relocation assist-
9 ance projects;

10 (iii) the risks posed to the local gov-
11 ernment by inclement weather; and

12 (iv) such other matters as the Admin-
13 istrator determines relevant.

14 (2) CRITERIA.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
16 shall select not more than 2 local governments
17 from each Federal Emergency Management
18 Agency region to participate in the pilot pro-
19 gram.

20 (B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 1 local
21 government shall be selected from a State with-
22 in a Federal Emergency Management Agency
23 region.

24 (C) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—Not
25 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of

1 this Act, the Administrator shall publish in the
2 Federal Register a notice detailing the require-
3 ments for local governments seeking to partici-
4 pate in the pilot program.

5 (3) LENGTH OF PARTICIPATION.—A covered
6 community may not participate in the pilot program
7 for a period of more than 48 months.

8 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall sub-
9 mit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual
10 report on the effectiveness of the pilot program, which
11 shall include—

12 (1) a summary of the relevant characteristics of
13 covered communities selected for the pilot program,
14 including relevant demographic information, the
15 number of properties in the covered community par-
16 ticipating in the National Flood Insurance Program,
17 and whether each covered community was frequently
18 impacted by other, non-flooding-related major disas-
19 ters;

20 (2) a determination of whether the pilot pro-
21 gram significantly expedited the property acquisition
22 process of the Federal Emergency Management
23 Agency in covered communities that participated in
24 the pilot program;

1 (3) an evaluation of the problems, or potential
2 problems, caused or likely to be caused by perma-
3 nently allowing covered communities to directly
4 apply for hazard mitigation assistance for the pur-
5 poses of property acquisition and structure demoli-
6 tion or relocation assistance under section 404(b) of
7 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
8 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(b)), which
9 shall be informed by—

10 (A) feedback from covered communities
11 participating in the pilot program;

12 (B) the States in which the covered com-
13 munities participating in the pilot program are
14 located; and

15 (C) such other factors as the Adminis-
16 trator determines relevant; and

17 (4) an evaluation of whether the pilot program
18 should be made permanent, ended, or extended for
19 a certain period of time.

20 (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-
21 nate not later than 8 years after the date on which the
22 Administrator selects the covered communities for partici-
23 pation in the pilot program under subsection (c)(2).

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
3 necessary to carry out the pilot program.

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