

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Bradley Williams, a detailee in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Marcus Mildenerger, be given privileges of the floor for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following member of my staff be granted floor privileges until July 28, 2023, Chloe Jackson.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, in a moment, I will put forward a unanimous consent request to pass the secure the U.S. Oregon procurement and transplant patient network act. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of my personal office and Finance Committee team be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress: Joshua Hauser, Aleksandra Czulak, Phoebe Canagarajah, Dylan Irlbeck, Maya Ward, Shreyas Gandlur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 70-770, the appointment of the following individual to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 118th Congress: the Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi; the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas; the Honorable THOM TILLIS of North Carolina; and the Honorable TIM SCOTT of South Carolina.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84, and further amended by Public Law 106-292, reappoints the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 118th Congress: the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida and the Honorable TIM SCOTT of South Carolina.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China during the 118th Congress: the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida, the Honorable TOM COTTON of Arkansas, the Honorable STEVE DAINES of Montana, the Honorable DAN SULIVAN of Alaska.

#### SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Illinois, the senior Senator from Maryland, and the junior Senator from Virginia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from July 28, 2023, through September 4, 2023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, August 22, from 12 noon until 2 p.m., committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2226

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that S. 2226, as passed by the Senate, be printed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 323, S. Res. 324, S. Res. 325, and S. Res. 326.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 323, S. Res. 324, and S. Res. 325) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolution (S. Res. 326) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIMPLIFICATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 93, S. 1528.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1528) to streamline the sharing of information among Federal disaster assistance agencies, to expedite the delivery of life-saving assistance to disaster survivors, to speed the recovery of communities from disasters, to protect the security and privacy of information provided by disaster survivors, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are in boldfaced brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are in italic.)

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Assistance Simplification Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE S.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The disaster response and recovery framework of the United States relies on a unified, integrated, agile, and adaptable whole-of-community effort by Federal, State, and local disaster assistance agencies, and by voluntary organizations, to respond to any natural and man-made disasters that may strike communities.

(2) Federal disaster assistance agencies must be ready to support States, Indian Tribes, communities, and volunteer agencies immediately after unpredictable catastrophic disasters that occur without notice.

(3) The immediate sharing of information is essential to an efficient and effective delivery of disaster assistance—

(A) when lives and property are at risk; and

(B) as communities seek to recover from disasters as quickly as possible.

(4) Section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Privacy Act of 1974"), and subchapter I of chapter 35 of

title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), require multiple layers of review, notice, and publication in the Federal Register before Federal disaster assistance agencies can amend or adapt their information sharing practices.

(5) Such extended review processes can have the effect of inhibiting efficiency, innovation, and interoperability among Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, local, private, and volunteer partners in delivering disaster assistance within a whole-of-community disaster assistance effort.

(6) Legal, regulatory, and policy limitations on the interagency sharing of information submitted by applicants for disaster assistance may require those applicants to submit separate applications to multiple Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local disaster assistance agencies, which increases the burden on those applicants, reduces the efficiency of disaster assistance programs, and places additional costs on taxpayers.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) streamline the sharing of information among Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local disaster assistance agencies;

(2) modernize the legal safeguards against the unauthorized disclosure or misuse of information about applicants for disaster assistance; and

(3) modernize, streamline, and consolidate the overlapping requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and the agency policies that implement those authorities to improve the speed, convenience, efficiency, and effectiveness of disaster relief programs.

### SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED DISASTER ASSISTANCE INTAKE PROCESS AND SYSTEM.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 707. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED DISASTER ASSISTANCE INTAKE PROCESS AND SYSTEM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(2) APPLICANT.—The term ‘applicant’ means—

“(A) an individual, business, or organization that applies for disaster assistance from a disaster assistance program;

“(B) an individual, business, or organization on behalf of which an individual described in subparagraph (A) applies for disaster assistance from a disaster assistance program; and

“(C) an individual, business, or organization that seeks assistance as a beneficiary of a State, local government, or Indian [Tribes] tribal government that received assistance under a disaster assistance program.

“(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.—The term ‘disaster assistance agency’ means—

“(A) the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

“(B) any Federal agency that provides disaster assistance to individuals, businesses, organizations, States, local governments, Indian [Tribes] tribal governments, communities, or organizations that the Administrator certifies as a disaster assistance agency in accordance with subsection (f) to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program.

“(4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The term ‘disaster assistance information’ includes any personal, biographical, demographic, geographical, financial, application decision, or other information that a disaster assistance agency, or a recipient of a

Federal block grant from a disaster assistance agency, is authorized to collect, maintain, disclose, or use to—

“(A) process an application for disaster assistance from a disaster assistance program; or

“(B) otherwise carry out the purpose of a disaster assistance program.

“(5) DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term ‘disaster assistance program’ means—

“(A) a program that provides disaster assistance to individuals and households under title IV or V in accordance with sections 408 and 502; or

“(B) any other assistance program authorized by a Federal statute or funded with Federal appropriations under which a disaster assistance agency awards or distributes disaster assistance to an individual, household, or organization, or provides a Federal block grant for these purposes, that arises from a major disaster or emergency declared under section 401 or 501, respectively, including—

“(i) disaster assistance;

“(ii) long-term disaster recovery assistance;

“(iii) the post-disaster restoration of infrastructure and housing;

“(iv) post-disaster economic revitalization;

“(v) a loan authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

“(vi) food benefit allotments under section 412 of this Act and section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

“(6) RECORD.—The term ‘record’ has the meaning given the term in section 552a of title 5, United States Code.

“(b) UNIFIED DISASTER ASSISTANCE INTAKE PROCESS AND SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of the Disaster Assistance Simplification Act, the Administrator shall, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, local, and [Tribal] Indian tribal governments and entities, develop and establish a unified intake process and system for applicants for disaster assistance provided by a disaster assistance agency to—

“(A) facilitate a consolidated application for any form of disaster assistance provided by a disaster assistance agency when appropriate to support the nature and purposes of the assistance;

“(B) carry out the purposes of disaster assistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably, and in accordance with applicable laws and privacy and data protections; and

“(C) support the detection, prevention, and investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, or discrimination in the administration of disaster assistance programs.

“(2) CAPABILITIES OF THE CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION SYSTEM.—The unified intake [and] process and system established under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) accept applications for disaster assistance programs;

“(B) allow for applicants to receive status updates on applications for disaster assistance programs;

“(C) allow for applicants to update disaster assistance information throughout the recovery journeys of those applicants;

“(D) allow for the distribution of information on additional recovery resources to disaster survivors that may be available in a disaster-stricken jurisdiction, in coordination with appropriate Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners;

“(E) provide disaster survivors with information and documentation on the applications of those disaster survivors for a disaster assistance program;

“(F) allow for the distribution of application data to support faster and more effective distribution of Federal disaster assistance, including block grant assistance, for disaster recovery;

“(G) allow for disaster assistance agencies to communicate directly with disaster survivors; and

“(H) contain other capabilities determined necessary by the heads of disaster assistance agencies.

“(3) UPDATES.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator receives a request from a disaster assistance agency to update questions in the consolidated application described in paragraph (1) needed to administer the disaster assistance programs of the disaster assistance agency, the Administrator shall make those updates.

“(c) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may—

“(1) collect, maintain, disclose, and use disaster assistance information, including such information received from any disaster assistance agency, with any other disaster assistance agency for purposes of subsection (b)(1); and

“(2) subject to subsection (d), authorize the collection, [sharing] maintenance, disclosure, and use of disaster assistance information collected on or after the date of enactment of the Disaster Assistance Simplification Act by publishing a notice on a public website that—

“(A) includes a detailed description of—

“(i) the specific disaster assistance information authorized to be collected, maintained, [and] disclosed, and used;

“(ii) why the collection, maintenance, [or] disclosure, or use of the disaster assistance information is necessary to carry out the purpose of a disaster assistance program;

“(iii) how the collection, maintenance, [and] disclosure, and use of disaster assistance information incorporates fair information practices; and

“(iv) the disaster assistance agencies that will be granted access to the disaster assistance information to carry out the purpose of any disaster assistance program; and

“(B) provides that the submission of an application through a unified disaster application constitutes prior written consent to disclose disaster assistance information to disaster assistance agencies for the purpose of section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code.

“(d) COLLECTION AND SHARING OF RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—

“(1) EFFECT OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE ON PUBLIC WEBSITE.—The publication of a notice by the Administrator on a public website of a revision to the system of records of the [uniform] unified intake process and system established under subsection (b)(1) prior to any new collection, maintenance, disclosure, or use [s.] of records to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program with respect to a major disaster or emergency declared by the President under section 401 or 501, respectively, of this Act shall be deemed to satisfy the notice and publication requirements of section 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for the entire period of performance for any assistance provided under a disaster assistance program.

“(2) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT WAIVER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of a major disaster or emergency pursuant to section 401 or 501, respectively, of this Act, the Administrator may waive the requirements of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’), with respect to the voluntary collection of information specific to the declared major disaster or emergency needed to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program.

“(B) DURATION.—A waiver described in subparagraph (A) shall be in effect for the entire period of performance for any assistance provided under a disaster assistance program with respect to a declared major disaster or emergency.

“(C) TRANSPARENCY.—If the Administrator waives the requirements described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

“(i) promptly post on a public website—

“(I) a brief justification for the waiver; and

“(II) the agencies and offices to which the waiver shall apply;

“(ii) update the information posted under clause (i), as applicable; and

“(iii) comply with the requirements of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’) upon the expiration of the period of performance of any assistance provided under a disaster assistance program if the collection of information may be utilized for the purposes of supporting the disaster assistance program in future major disaster or emergency declarations.

“(D) EFFECTIVENESS OF WAIVER.—Any waiver under subparagraph (A) shall take effect on the date on which the Administrator posts information on the internet website as provided for under subparagraph (C).

“(e) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator shall facilitate the collection of disaster assistance information into a unified application only after—

“(1) the Administrator certifies that the unified application substantially complies with the data security standards established pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and any other applicable Federal information security policy;

“(2) the Secretary of Homeland Security publishes a privacy impact assessment for the unified application that is similar to the privacy assessment conducted under section 208(b)(1)(B) of the E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note); and

“(3) the Administrator, in consultation with disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies and personnel granted access to disaster assistance information to protect such information from improper disclosure.

“(f) CERTIFICATION OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may certify a Federal agency as a disaster assistance agency after posting an agreement between the Administrator and the Federal agency on a public website that contains the detailed terms of the agreement.

“(2) CONTENTS OF AGREEMENT.—An agreement between the Administrator and a Federal agency described in paragraph (1) shall state that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal agency will—

“(A) collect, disclose, maintain, and use disaster assistance information in accordance with—

“(i) this section; and

“(ii) subject to subsection (i)(2), any existing policies of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal agency for information protection and use;

“(B) train any personnel granted access to disaster assistance information on the rules of behavior established by the Administrator under subsection (e)(3);

“(C) in the event of any unauthorized disclosure of disaster assistance information—

“(i) not later than 24 hours after discovering the unauthorized disclosure—

“(I) in the case of an unauthorized disclosure by the Federal agency, notify the Administrator of the disclosure; and

“(II) in the case of an unauthorized disclosure by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, notify disaster assistance agencies of the disclosure;

“(ii) cooperate fully with the Administrator and disaster assistance agencies in the investigation and remediation of the disclosure; and

“(iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution of a person responsible for the disclosure; and

“(D) assume responsibility for any compensation, civil liability, or other remediation measure awarded by a judgment of a court or agreed upon as a compromise of any potential claim by or on behalf of an applicant, including by obtaining credit monitoring and remediation services, for an improper disclosure of disaster assistance information that is—

“(i) caused, directly or indirectly, by the acts or omissions of an officer, employee, or contractor of the Federal agency; or

“(ii) from any electronic system of records that was created or maintained by the Federal agency pursuant to section 552a(e) of title 5, United States Code.

“(g) REPORTS.—

“(1) FEMA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and every year thereafter for 2 years, the Administrator, in coordination with the heads of disaster assistance agencies, shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this section, including—

“(A) how disaster assistance agencies are working together to implement the requirements under this section;

“(B) the effect of this section on disaster survivor burden and the speed and efficiency of delivering disaster assistance; and

“(C) a description of any other challenges that require further legislative action.

“(2) GAO.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on how the implementation of this section has affected the disaster survivor experience, and any recommendations for improvements to the requirements under this section.

“(h) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, and again not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall brief Congress on—

“(1) the status of the implementation of the requirements under this section; and

“(2) how disaster assistance agencies are working together to implement the requirements under this section.

“(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) INAPPLICABILITY OF MATCHING PROGRAM PROVISIONS.—The disclosure and use of disaster assistance information subject to the requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, among disaster assistance agencies or with State, local, or Tribal governments carrying out disaster assistance programs shall not—

“(A) be construed as a matching program for the purpose of section 552a(a)(8) of title 5, United States Code; or

“(B) be subject to subsection (e)(12), (o), (p)(1)(A)(ii), (q), (r), or (u) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) AUTHORITIES IN OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority of an entity to share disaster assistance information regarding programs funded or facilitated by the entity in accordance with any other law or agency policy.

“(3) APPLYING TO MULTIPLE PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an applicant to apply to more than 1 disaster assistance program.”

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be considered and agreed to; that the Peters amendment which is at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1088) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 20, strike line 2 and insert “ance program.

“(4) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize a program that is not authorized by law as of the date of enactment of this section.”

The bill (S. 1528), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1528

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Disaster Assistance Simplification Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The disaster response and recovery framework of the United States relies on a unified, integrated, agile, and adaptable whole-of-community effort by Federal, State, and local disaster assistance agencies, and by voluntary organizations, to respond to any natural and man-made disasters that may strike communities.

(2) Federal disaster assistance agencies must be ready to support States, Indian Tribes, communities, and volunteer agencies immediately after unpredictable catastrophic disasters that occur without notice.

(3) The immediate sharing of information is essential to an efficient and effective delivery of disaster assistance—

(A) when lives and property are at risk; and

(B) as communities seek to recover from disasters as quickly as possible.

(4) Section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”), and subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), require multiple layers of review, notice, and publication in the Federal Register before Federal disaster assistance agencies can amend or adapt their information sharing practices.

(5) Such extended review processes can have the effect of inhibiting efficiency, innovation, and interoperability among Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, local, private, and volunteer partners in delivering disaster assistance within a whole-of-community disaster assistance effort.

(6) Legal, regulatory, and policy limitations on the interagency sharing of information submitted by applicants for disaster assistance may require those applicants to submit separate applications to multiple Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local disaster assistance agencies, which increases the burden on those applicants, reduces the efficiency of disaster assistance programs, and places additional costs on taxpayers.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) streamline the sharing of information among Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local disaster assistance agencies;

(2) modernize the legal safeguards against the unauthorized disclosure or misuse of information about applicants for disaster assistance; and

(3) modernize, streamline, and consolidate the overlapping requirements of section 552a

of title 5, United States Code, subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and the agency policies that implement those authorities to improve the speed, convenience, efficiency, and effectiveness of disaster relief programs.

**SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED DISASTER ASSISTANCE INTAKE PROCESS AND SYSTEM.**

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 707. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED DISASTER ASSISTANCE INTAKE PROCESS AND SYSTEM.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(2) APPLICANT.—The term ‘applicant’ means—

“(A) an individual, business, or organization that applies for disaster assistance from a disaster assistance program;

“(B) an individual, business, or organization on behalf of which an individual described in subparagraph (A) applies for disaster assistance from a disaster assistance program; and

“(C) an individual, business, or organization that seeks assistance as a beneficiary of a State, local government, or Indian tribal government that received assistance under a disaster assistance program.

“(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.—The term ‘disaster assistance agency’ means—

“(A) the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

“(B) any Federal agency that provides disaster assistance to individuals, businesses, organizations, States, local governments, Indian tribal governments, communities, or organizations that the Administrator certifies as a disaster assistance agency in accordance with subsection (f) to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program.

“(4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The term ‘disaster assistance information’ includes any personal, biographical, demographic, geographical, financial, application decision, or other information that a disaster assistance agency, or a recipient of a Federal block grant from a disaster assistance agency, is authorized to collect, maintain, disclose, or use to—

“(A) process an application for disaster assistance from a disaster assistance program; or

“(B) otherwise carry out the purpose of a disaster assistance program.

“(5) DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term ‘disaster assistance program’ means—

“(A) a program that provides disaster assistance to individuals and households under title IV or V in accordance with sections 408 and 502; or

“(B) any other assistance program authorized by a Federal statute or funded with Federal appropriations under which a disaster assistance agency awards or distributes disaster assistance to an individual, household, or organization, or provides a Federal block grant for these purposes, that arises from a major disaster or emergency declared under section 401 or 501, respectively, including—

“(i) disaster assistance;

“(ii) long-term disaster recovery assistance;

“(iii) the post-disaster restoration of infrastructure and housing;

“(iv) post-disaster economic revitalization;

“(v) a loan authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

“(vi) food benefit allotments under section 412 of this Act and section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

“(6) RECORD.—The term ‘record’ has the meaning given the term in section 552a of title 5, United States Code.

“(b) UNIFIED DISASTER ASSISTANCE INTAKE PROCESS AND SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of the Disaster Assistance Simplification Act, the Administrator shall, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, local, and Indian tribal governments and entities, develop and establish a unified intake process and system for applicants for disaster assistance provided by a disaster assistance agency to—

“(A) facilitate a consolidated application for any form of disaster assistance provided by a disaster assistance agency when appropriate to support the nature and purposes of the assistance;

“(B) carry out the purposes of disaster assistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably, and in accordance with applicable laws and privacy and data protections; and

“(C) support the detection, prevention, and investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, or discrimination in the administration of disaster assistance programs.

“(2) CAPABILITIES OF THE CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION SYSTEM.—The unified intake process and system established under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) accept applications for disaster assistance programs;

“(B) allow for applicants to receive status updates on applications for disaster assistance programs;

“(C) allow for applicants to update disaster assistance information throughout the recovery journeys of those applicants;

“(D) allow for the distribution of information on additional recovery resources to disaster survivors that may be available in a disaster-stricken jurisdiction, in coordination with appropriate Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners;

“(E) provide disaster survivors with information and documentation on the applications of those disaster survivors for a disaster assistance program;

“(F) allow for the distribution of application data to support faster and more effective distribution of Federal disaster assistance, including block grant assistance, for disaster recovery;

“(G) allow for disaster assistance agencies to communicate directly with disaster survivors; and

“(H) contain other capabilities determined necessary by the heads of disaster assistance agencies.

“(3) UPDATES.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator receives a request from a disaster assistance agency to update questions in the consolidated application described in paragraph (1) needed to administer the disaster assistance programs of the disaster assistance agency, the Administrator shall make those updates.

“(c) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may—

“(1) collect, maintain, disclose, and use disaster assistance information, including such information received from any disaster assistance agency, with any other disaster assistance agency for purposes of subsection (b)(1); and

“(2) subject to subsection (d), authorize the collection, maintenance, disclosure, and use of disaster assistance information collected on or after the date of enactment of the Disaster Assistance Simplification Act by publishing a notice on a public website that—

“(A) includes a detailed description of—

“(i) the specific disaster assistance information authorized to be collected, maintained, disclosed, and used;

“(ii) why the collection, maintenance, disclosure, or use of the disaster assistance in-

formation is necessary to carry out the purpose of a disaster assistance program;

“(iii) how the collection, maintenance, disclosure, and use of disaster assistance information incorporates fair information practices; and

“(iv) the disaster assistance agencies that will be granted access to the disaster assistance information to carry out the purpose of any disaster assistance program; and

“(B) provides that the submission of an application through a unified disaster application constitutes prior written consent to disclose disaster assistance information to disaster assistance agencies for the purpose of section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code.

“(d) COLLECTION AND SHARING OF RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—

“(1) EFFECT OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE ON PUBLIC WEBSITE.—The publication of a notice by the Administrator on a public website of a revision to the system of records of the unified intake process and system established under subsection (b)(1) prior to any new collection, maintenance, disclosure, or use of records to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program with respect to a major disaster or emergency declared by the President under section 401 or 501, respectively, of this Act shall be deemed to satisfy the notice and publication requirements of section 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for the entire period of performance for any assistance provided under a disaster assistance program.

“(2) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT WAIVER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of a major disaster or emergency pursuant to section 401 or 501, respectively, of this Act, the Administrator may waive the requirements of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’), with respect to the voluntary collection of information specific to the declared major disaster or emergency needed to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program.

“(B) DURATION.—A waiver described in subparagraph (A) shall be in effect for the entire period of performance for any assistance provided under a disaster assistance program with respect to a declared major disaster or emergency.

“(C) TRANSPARENCY.—If the Administrator waives the requirements described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

“(i) promptly post on a public website—

“(I) a brief justification for the waiver; and

“(II) the agencies and offices to which the waiver shall apply;

“(ii) update the information posted under clause (i), as applicable; and

“(iii) comply with the requirements of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’) upon the expiration of the period of performance of any assistance provided under a disaster assistance program if the collection of information may be utilized for the purposes of supporting the disaster assistance program in future major disaster or emergency declarations.

“(D) EFFECTIVENESS OF WAIVER.—Any waiver under subparagraph (A) shall take effect on the date on which the Administrator posts information on the internet website as provided for under subparagraph (C).

“(e) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator shall facilitate the collection of disaster assistance information into a unified application only after—

“(1) the Administrator certifies that the unified application substantially complies with the data security standards established pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and any other applicable Federal information security policy;

“(2) the Secretary of Homeland Security publishes a privacy impact assessment for the unified application that is similar to the privacy assessment conducted under section 208(b)(1)(B) of the E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note); and

“(3) the Administrator, in consultation with disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies and personnel granted access to disaster assistance information to protect such information from improper disclosure.

“(f) CERTIFICATION OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may certify a Federal agency as a disaster assistance agency after posting an agreement between the Administrator and the Federal agency on a public website that contains the detailed terms of the agreement.

“(2) CONTENTS OF AGREEMENT.—An agreement between the Administrator and a Federal agency described in paragraph (1) shall state that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal agency will—

“(A) collect, disclose, maintain, and use disaster assistance information in accordance with—

“(i) this section; and

“(ii) subject to subsection (i)(2), any existing policies of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal agency for information protection and use;

“(B) train any personnel granted access to disaster assistance information on the rules of behavior established by the Administrator under subsection (e)(3);

“(C) in the event of any unauthorized disclosure of disaster assistance information—

“(i) not later than 24 hours after discovering the unauthorized disclosure—

“(I) in the case of an unauthorized disclosure by the Federal agency, notify the Administrator of the disclosure; and

“(II) in the case of an unauthorized disclosure by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, notify disaster assistance agencies of the disclosure;

“(ii) cooperate fully with the Administrator and disaster assistance agencies in the investigation and remediation of the disclosure; and

“(iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution of a person responsible for the disclosure; and

“(D) assume responsibility for any compensation, civil liability, or other remediation measure awarded by a judgment of a court or agreed upon as a compromise of any potential claim by or on behalf of an applicant, including by obtaining credit monitoring and remediation services, for an improper disclosure of disaster assistance information that is—

“(i) caused, directly or indirectly, by the acts or omissions of an officer, employee, or contractor of the Federal agency; or

“(ii) from any electronic system of records that was created or maintained by the Federal agency pursuant to section 552a(e) of title 5, United States Code.

“(g) REPORTS.—

“(1) FEMA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and every year thereafter for 2 years, the Administrator, in coordination with the heads of disaster assistance agencies, shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this section, including—

“(A) how disaster assistance agencies are working together to implement the requirements under this section;

“(B) the effect of this section on disaster survivor burden and the speed and efficiency of delivering disaster assistance; and

“(C) a description of any other challenges that require further legislative action.

“(2) GAO.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Com-

troller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on how the implementation of this section has affected the disaster survivor experience, and any recommendations for improvements to the requirements under this section.

“(h) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, and again not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall brief Congress on—

“(1) the status of the implementation of the requirements under this section; and

“(2) how disaster assistance agencies are working together to implement the requirements under this section.

“(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) INAPPLICABILITY OF MATCHING PROGRAM PROVISIONS.—The disclosure and use of disaster assistance information subject to the requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, among disaster assistance agencies or with State, local, or Tribal governments carrying out disaster assistance programs shall not—

“(A) be construed as a matching program for the purpose of section 552a(a)(8) of title 5, United States Code; or

“(B) be subject to subsection (e)(12), (o), (p)(1)(A)(ii), (q), (r), or (u) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) AUTHORITIES IN OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority of an entity to share disaster assistance information regarding programs funded or facilitated by the entity in accordance with any other law or agency policy.

“(3) APPLYING TO MULTIPLE PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an applicant to apply to more than 1 disaster assistance program.”.

“(4) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize a program that is not authorized by law as of the date of enactment of this section.”.

#### DISASTER ASSISTANCE DEADLINES ALIGNMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 157, S. 1858.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1858) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the Peters amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1091) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To add an applicability provision)

At the end, add the following:

#### SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.

The amendment made by section 2 shall apply only with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 1858), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1858

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Disaster Assistance Deadlines Alignment Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION DEADLINE.

Section 410 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5177) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) APPLICATION DEADLINE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a major disaster for which assistance is provided under this section and section 408, the application deadline for an individual seeking assistance under this section shall match the application deadline for individuals and households seeking assistance under section 408.

“(2) EXTENSION.—The President may accept an application from an individual described in paragraph (1) that is submitted after the deadline described in paragraph (1) if—

“(A) the individual has good cause for the late submission; and

“(B) the individual submits the application before the date on which the period during which assistance is provided under this section for the applicable major disaster expires.”.

#### SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.

The amendment made by section 2 shall apply only with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### DUCK STAMP MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 788 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 788) to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue fully electronic stamps under that Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Boozman substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1089), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023”.