

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3109

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a grant program for assisting small businesses and agricultural enterprises in meeting disaster-related expenses.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 19, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA (for himself, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HAYES, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. LOBIONDO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a grant program for assisting small businesses and agricultural enterprises in meeting disaster-related expenses.

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. SMALL BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL ENTER-**  
4 **PRISE GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
6 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170a–42 U.S.C.  
7 5189b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 425. SMALL BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL ENTER-**  
2 **PRISE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to  
4 make grants for the purposes of assisting small businesses  
5 and agricultural enterprises adversely affected by a major  
6 disaster in meeting their disaster-related expenses, includ-  
7 ing the costs of nonstructural repairs and replacement of  
8 noninsured contents and inventory.

9 “(b) NO RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.—No small busi-  
10 ness or agricultural enterprise receiving a grant under this  
11 section may use the proceeds of such grant for relocation,  
12 although such proceeds may be used for appropriate pur-  
13 poses in a new location, at the discretion of the President,  
14 for safety, health, or mitigation purposes.

15 “(c) DUPLICATIVE ASSISTANCE.—

16 “(1) LIABILITY.—A small business or agricul-  
17 tural enterprise receiving assistance under this sec-  
18 tion shall be liable to the United States to the extent  
19 that such assistance duplicates benefits provided to  
20 the small business or agricultural enterprise for the  
21 same purpose from another Federal agency.

22 “(2) COLLECTION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—A  
23 Federal agency which provides any duplicative as-  
24 sistance described in paragraph (1) shall collect an  
25 amount equal to the value of such duplicative assist-  
26 ance from the recipient in accordance with chapter

1 37 of title 31, United States Code, relating to debt  
2 collection, when the head of such agency considers it  
3 to be in the best interest of the Federal Government.

4 “(3) NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 312 shall  
5 not apply to assistance provided under this section.

6 “(d) LIMITS ON GRANTS.—No small business or agri-  
7 cultural enterprise shall be eligible for assistance under  
8 this section in relation to more than one major disaster,  
9 and the maximum aggregate of such assistance to such  
10 business or enterprise shall be \$20,000 with respect to  
11 such disaster.

12 “(e) LIMIT ON TIME PERIOD FOR MAKING  
13 GRANTS.—The President may only make a grant under  
14 this section during the 90-day period beginning on the  
15 date of declaration of a major disaster under this title.

16 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The President shall promulgate  
17 regulations to carry out this section and such regulations  
18 shall include criteria, standards, and procedures for the  
19 determination of eligibility for grants and the administra-  
20 tion of grants under this section.

21 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following  
22 definitions apply:

23 “(1) AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE.—The term  
24 ‘agricultural enterprise’ includes—

1           “(A) a farm not larger than a family farm  
2           within the meaning of such phrase under sec-  
3           tion 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
4           Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961); and

5           “(B) an enterprise engaged in the business  
6           of production of food and fiber, ranching and  
7           raising of livestock, aquaculture, and all other  
8           farming and agricultural related industries  
9           within the meaning of such phrase under sec-  
10          tion 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
11          632(a)).

12          “(2) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term ‘small busi-  
13          ness’ has the meaning the term ‘small business con-  
14          cern’ has under section 3 of the Small Business Act  
15          (15 U.S.C. 632).”.

16 **SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY.**

17          The amendments made by section 1 shall apply to  
18 any major disaster declared after September 1, 1999, and  
19 before the date of enactment of this Act. For purposes  
20 of section 425(d) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
21 and Emergency Assistance Act, the 90-day period for such  
22 disaster shall begin on such date of enactment.

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