

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3192

To establish an advisory board to monitor the collection and allocation of relief funds by charitable organizations in response to a disaster.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2001

Mr. GILMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To establish an advisory board to monitor the collection and allocation of relief funds by charitable organizations in response to a disaster.

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 “Disaster Relief Char-  
5 ities Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISASTER RELIEF FUND DEFINED.**

7 In this Act the term “disaster relief fund” means a  
8 fund established by a charitable organization for relief of  
9 a specific disaster with contributions totaling at least  
10 \$25,000.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 There is established a board to be known as the  
3 “Charity Accountability Board” (in this Act referred to  
4 as the “Board”).

5 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

6 The Board shall—

7 (1) request information from and make rec-  
8 ommendations to qualifying charitable organizations  
9 regarding—

10 (A) the amount of disaster relief funds col-  
11 lected and dispersed by such organizations;

12 (B) the administrative costs incurred by  
13 such organizations in administering disaster re-  
14 lief funds; and

15 (C) the criteria used by such organizations  
16 in dispersing disaster relief funds;

17 (2) provide information about disaster relief  
18 funds to disaster victims and those wishing to con-  
19 tribute to such funds; and

20 (3) report to the President and the Congress on  
21 the status of such funds.

22 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

23 (a) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—The Board shall be  
24 composed of 5 members appointed as follows:

25 (1) The Director of the Federal Emergency  
26 Management Agency, or the Director’s delegate.

1           (2) Two members appointed by the President,  
2           who shall each serve for a term of 4 years.

3           (3) One member appointed by the Speaker of  
4           the House, who shall serve for a term of 2 years.

5           (4) One member appointed by the majority  
6           leader of the Senate, who shall serve for a term of  
7           2 years.

8           (b) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall  
9           be filled in the manner in which the original appointment  
10          was made.

11          (c) BASIC PAY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members  
12          shall serve without pay but shall receive travel expenses,  
13          including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance  
14          with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter  
15          57 of title 5, United States Code.

16          (d) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at the call of  
17          a majority of its members.

18          **SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

19          (a) DIRECTOR.—The Board may appoint a Director  
20          and such additional personnel as it considers appropriate.

21          (b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE  
22          LAWS.—Any Director and staff appointed under sub-  
23          section (a) shall be appointed subject to the provisions of  
24          title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the  
25          competitive service, and shall be paid in accordance with

1 the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter  
2 53 of that title relating to classification and General  
3 Schedule pay rates.

4 **SEC. 7. REPORTING.**

5 The Board shall transmit to the President and the  
6 Congress monthly reports concerning the information col-  
7 lected and disseminated and recommendations made by  
8 the Board, and any other information the Board considers  
9 appropriate.

10 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

11 Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Advisory Com-  
12 mittee Act (5 U.S.C. App. relating to the termination of  
13 advisory committees) shall not apply to the Board.

14 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
16 as may be necessary to carry out this Act, to remain avail-  
17 able until expended.

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