

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3895

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 2005

Received

OCTOBER 25, 2005

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
Affairs

AN ACT

To amend title V of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide rural housing assistance to families affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Housing Hurri-
3 cane Relief Act of 2005”.

4 **SEC. 2. DISASTER AUTHORITY.**

5 Section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.
6 1490q) is amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 541. DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
9 vision of this title, the Secretary may exercise any author-
10 ity described in subsection (b) with respect to the counties
11 designated as disaster areas pursuant to the declaration
12 by the President of a major disaster or emergency under
13 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
14 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in connection with
15 Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, and the counties
16 contiguous to such counties, and for any individuals who
17 resided in such counties at the time of the disaster.

18 “(b) SPECIAL AUTHORITIES.—The authorities de-
19 scribed in this subsection are as follows:

20 “(1) CONVERSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

21 The Secretary may convert rental assistance under
22 section 521 allocated for a property that is not in-
23 habitable because of the disaster into

24 “(A) housing voucher assistance authorized
25 under section 8(o) of the United States Hous-
26 ing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)); or

1 “(B) rural housing vouchers authorized
2 under this title.

3 Any conversion and use of rental assistance pursu-
4 ant to this paragraph shall apply only for the period
5 described in subsection (c) or a portion thereof, as
6 determined by the Secretary.

7 “(2) WAIVER OF RURAL AREA REQUIRE-
8 MENTS.—The Secretary may, for the period de-
9 scribed in subsection (c) or any portion thereof,
10 waive the application of the provisions of section 520
11 with respect to assistance provided under this sec-
12 tion, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

13 “(c) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The period de-
14 scribed in this subsection is the 6-month period that be-
15 gins upon the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-
17 dition to funds otherwise available to carry out this sec-
18 tion, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums
19 as may be necessary to carry out, during the period de-
20 scribed in subsection (c), this section or any other activity
21 authorized under this title.”.

22 **SEC. 3. RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER AUTHORITY.**

23 During the 6-month period beginning on the date of
24 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
25 may exercise the authority under section 542 of the Hous-

1 ing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r), except that in carrying
2 out this section—

3 (1) notwithstanding the first sentence of sub-
4 section (a) of such section 542, the Secretary may
5 assist low-income families and persons, but only if—

6 (A) such family or person

7 (i) resides or resided, on August 25,
8 2005, in any area that is subject to a dec-
9 laration by the President of a major dis-
10 aster or emergency under the Robert T.
11 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
12 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in
13 connection with Hurricane Katrina; or

14 (ii) resides or resided, on September
15 24, 2005, in any area that is subject to a
16 declaration by the President of a major
17 disaster or emergency under the Robert T.
18 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
19 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in
20 connection with Hurricane Rita; and

21 (B) the residence of such family or person
22 became uninhabitable or inaccessible as result
23 of a major disaster or emergency referred to in
24 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and

