

Calendar No. 229

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1777**

To provide relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, reported the following original bill; which was read twice and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To provide relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

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 “Katrina Emergency
5 Assistance Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) **MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.**—Notwithstanding section
8 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
9 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174), in providing as-
10 sistance to individuals and households affected by Hurri-

1 cane Katrina, the President may waive the limitation on
2 total assistance under subsection (h) of that section.

3 (b) TYPES OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—No limitation
4 relating to the maximum amount of assistance under
5 paragraph (2) or (3) of section 408(c) of the Robert T.
6 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
7 (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)) shall apply with respect to assistance
8 to individuals and households affected by Hurricane
9 Katrina.

10 (c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS OTHER
11 NEEDS.—Notwithstanding section 408(g)(2) of the Rob-
12 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
13 Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(g)(2)), in the case of financial assist-
14 ance provided under subsection (e) of that section to any
15 individual or household affected by Hurricane Katrina, the
16 President may increase the Federal share to not more
17 than 90 percent.

18 **SEC. 3. UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.**

19 Notwithstanding section 410 of the Robert T. Staf-
20 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
21 U.S.C. 5177), in providing assistance under that section
22 to individuals unemployed as a result of Hurricane
23 Katrina—

24 (1) the President shall provide assistance for as
25 long as the unemployment of the individual con-

1 continues, but for not longer than 39 weeks after the
 2 date on which the unemployed individual first re-
 3 ceives assistance;

4 (2) the President shall accept applications for
 5 assistance for—

6 (A) the 90-day period beginning on the
 7 date on which the applicable major disaster was
 8 declared; or

9 (B) such longer period as may be estab-
 10 lished by the President; and

11 (3) the amount of assistance provided to an un-
 12 employed individual for each week of unemployment
 13 shall be not less than 50 percent of the national av-
 14 erage weekly unemployment benefit provided to an
 15 individual as of the date of the major disaster for
 16 which unemployment assistance is provided.

17 **SEC. 4. REIMBURSEMENT FOR PURCHASES.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) DISASTER PERIOD.—The term “disaster pe-
 20 riod” means, with respect to any State that includes
 21 an area for which a major disaster has been declared
 22 in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T.
 23 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
 24 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) as a result of Hurricane
 25 Katrina, the period beginning on the earliest date on

1 which any area of the State was so declared and
2 ending on the latest date for which any such dec-
3 laration of an area of the State terminates.

4 (2) KATRINA SURVIVOR.—The term “Katrina
5 Survivor” means an individual who—

6 (A) resides in an area for which a major
7 disaster has been declared in accordance with
8 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
9 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
10 5170) as a result of Hurricane Katrina; or

11 (B) resided in an area described in sub-
12 paragraph (A) during the 7 days immediately
13 preceding the date of declaration of a major
14 disaster described in subparagraph (A).

15 (3) MAJOR DISASTER.—The term “major dis-
16 aster” has the meaning given the term in section
17 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
18 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

19 (b) REIMBURSEMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
21 provision of law, the President may reimburse a
22 community for each purchase of supplies (such as
23 food, personal hygiene products, linens, and cloth-
24 ing) distributed to Katrina Survivors.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE PURCHASES.—Reimbursement
2 under paragraph (1) shall be available only with re-
3 spect to supplies that—

4 (A) are purchased with taxpayer dollars;
5 and

6 (B) would otherwise be eligible for reim-
7 bursement if purchased by a Katrina Survivor.

8 (c) PERIOD OF APPLICABILITY.—This section and
9 the authority provided by this section apply only to a com-
10 munity assisting Katrina Survivors from a State during
11 the disaster period of the State.

12 **SEC. 5. MICROPURCHASES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the Second Emer-
14 gency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Imme-
15 diate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane
16 Katrina, 2005 (Public Law 109–62) is repealed.

17 (b) AUTHORITY.—The authority provided in sub-
18 section 32A of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy
19 Act (41 U.S.C. 428a) may be used with respect to any
20 procurement for property or services determined by the
21 head of an Executive agency to be necessary for support
22 of Hurricane Katrina rescue and relief operations.

23 (c) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by sub-
24 section (b) shall expire on the date that is 180 days after
25 the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DISPLACED BY**
2 **KATRINA.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that the Bureau of Immi-
4 gration and Customs Enforcement within the Department
5 of Homeland Security should suspend or refrain from ini-
6 tiating removal proceedings for international students and
7 scholars who are deportable solely due to their inability
8 to fulfill the terms of their visas as a result of a national
9 disaster, such as Hurricane Katrina.

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