

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1777

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2006

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## AN ACT

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 410 of  
3 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
4 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5177), in providing assistance  
5 under that section to individuals unemployed as a result  
6 of Hurricane Katrina—

7 (1) the President shall accept applications for  
8 assistance during—

9 (A) the 90-day period beginning on the  
10 date on which the applicable major disaster was  
11 declared; or

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

14 (2) subject to subsection (b), the President  
15 shall provide assistance to any unemployed indi-  
16 vidual, to the extent the individual is not entitled to  
17 unemployment compensation under any Federal or  
18 State law, until that individual is reemployed in a  
19 suitable position.

20 (b) LIMITATION FOR PERIOD OF ASSISTANCE.—The  
21 total amount of assistance payable to an individual under  
22 subsection (a) may not exceed payments based on a 39-  
23 week period of unemployment.

24 **SEC. 3. REIMBURSEMENT FOR PURCHASES.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) DISASTER PERIOD.—The term “disaster pe-  
2           riod” means, with respect to any State that includes  
3           an area for which a major disaster has been declared  
4           in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T.  
5           Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
6           Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) as a result of Hurricane  
7           Katrina or Hurricane Rita, the period beginning on  
8           the earliest date on which any area of the State was  
9           so declared and ending on the latest date for which  
10          any such declaration of an area of the State termi-  
11          nates.

12          (2) KATRINA OR RITA SURVIVOR.—The term  
13          “Katrina or Rita Survivor” means an individual  
14          who—

15                (A) resides in an area for which a major  
16                disaster has been declared in accordance with  
17                401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
18                and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
19                5170) as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hur-  
20                ricane Rita; or

21                (B) resided in an area described in sub-  
22                paragraph (A) during the 7 days immediately  
23                preceding the date of declaration of a major  
24                disaster described in subparagraph (A).

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

5       (b) REIMBURSEMENT.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
7       provision of law, the President may reimburse a  
8       community for each purchase of supplies (such as  
9       food, personal hygiene products, linens, and cloth-  
10      ing) distributed to Katrina or Rita Survivors.

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

14                (A) are purchased with taxpayer dollars;  
15      and

16                (B) would otherwise be eligible for reim-  
17      bursement if purchased by a Katrina or Rita  
18      Survivor.

19          (c) PERIOD OF APPLICABILITY.—This section and  
20      the authority provided by this section apply only to a com-  
21      munity assisting Katrina or Rita Survivors from a State  
22      during the disaster period of the State.

1 **SEC. 4. 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.

10 **SEC. 5. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.**

11 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment  
12 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting  
13 through the Under Secretary for Emergency Prepared-  
14 ness, shall propose new inspection guidelines that prohibit  
15 an inspector from entering into a contract with any indi-  
16 vidual or entity for whom the inspector performs an in-  
17 spection for purposes of determining eligibility for assist-  
18 ance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Passed the Senate February 15, 2006.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,  
*Secretary.*