

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2109

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an integrated plan to reduce administrative costs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an integrated plan to reduce administrative costs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

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 “Directing Dollars to
5 Disaster Relief Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

1 (1) the term “administrative cost” means a cost
2 incurred by the Agency in support of the delivery of
3 disaster assistance for a major disaster;

4 (2) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
5 ministrator of the Agency;

6 (3) the term “Agency” means the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency;

8 (4) the term “direct administrative cost” means
9 a cost incurred by a grantee or subgrantee of a pro-
10 gram authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
11 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
12 5121 et seq.) that can be identified separately and
13 assigned to a specific project;

14 (5) the term “hazard mitigation program”
15 means the hazard mitigation grant program author-
16 ized under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford
17 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
18 U.S.C. 5170e);

19 (6) the term “individual assistance program”
20 means the individual assistance grant program au-
21 thorized under sections 408, 410, 415, 416, 426,
22 and 502(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
23 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174,
24 5177, 5182, 5183, 5189d, and 5192(a));

1 (7) the term “major disaster” means a major
2 disaster declared by the President under section 401
3 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
4 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

5 (8) the term “mission assignment” has the
6 meaning given the term in section 641 of the Post-
7 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of
8 2006 (6 U.S.C. 741); and

9 (9) the term “public assistance program”
10 means the public assistance grant program author-
11 ized under sections 403(a)(3), 406, 418, 419, 428,
12 and 502(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
13 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
14 5170b(a)(3), 5172, 5185, 5186, 5189f, and
15 5192(a)).

16 **SEC. 3. INTEGRATED PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COST RE-**
17 **DUCTION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 365 days after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

20 (1) develop and implement an integrated plan
21 to control and reduce administrative costs for major
22 disasters, which shall include—

23 (A) steps the Agency will take to reduce
24 administrative costs;

1 (B) milestones needed for accomplishing
2 the reduction of administrative costs;

3 (C) the assignment of clear roles and re-
4 sponsibilities, including the designation of offi-
5 cials responsible for monitoring and measuring
6 performance; and

7 (D) a timetable for implementation;

8 (2) compare the costs and benefits of tracking
9 the administrative cost data for major disasters by
10 the public assistance, individual assistance, hazard
11 mitigation, and mission assignment programs, and if
12 feasible, track this information; and

13 (3) clarify Agency guidance and minimum docu-
14 mentation requirements for a direct administrative
15 cost claimed by a grantee or subgrantee of a public
16 assistance grant program.

17 (b) CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE.—Not later than 90
18 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
19 trator shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security
20 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
21 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
22 of Representatives on the plan required to be developed
23 under subsection (a)(1).

24 (c) UPDATES.—If the Administrator modifies the
25 plan or the timetable under subsection (a), the Adminis-

1 trator shall submit to Congress a report notifying Con-
2 gress of the modification, which shall include the details
3 of the modification.

4 **SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
6 (b), of the total amount obligated for major disasters by
7 the Agency from the Disaster Relief Fund for a fiscal
8 year, the amount obligated for administrative costs shall
9 not exceed the milestones set by the Agency in the plan
10 developed under section 3(a)(1).

11 (b) WAIVER.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may
13 waive a requirement described in subsection (a) if
14 the Administrator—

15 (A) has completed an assessment described
16 in paragraph (3); and

17 (B) submits to the appropriate committees
18 of Congress a written explanation as to why the
19 Agency exceeded the milestones set by the
20 Agency in the plan developed under section
21 3(a)(1) for administrative costs of major disas-
22 ters for the specified fiscal year.

23 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30
24 days after the date on which the Administrator sub-
25 mits the written explanation to Congress under

1 paragraph (1), the Administrator shall make the ex-
2 planation publicly available on the website of the
3 Agency.

4 (3) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days
5 after the last day of a fiscal year, the Administrator
6 shall conduct an assessment of the administrative
7 costs of major disasters for the fiscal year in order
8 to determine whether a waiver is needed under this
9 subsection.

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