

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2880

To establish a pilot program for long-term rental assistance for families affected by major disasters in 2017.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2018

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish a pilot program for long-term rental assistance for families affected by major disasters in 2017.

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 Housing As-

5 sistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

1 (1) the term “Administrator” means Adminis-
 2 trator of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
 3 cy;

4 (2) the term “covered disaster” means a major
 5 disaster declared by the President under section 401
 6 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
 7 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) during 2017,
 8 including with respect to Hurricane Maria;

9 (3) the term “eligible families” means families
 10 that the Administrator determines are eligible for
 11 housing assistance under section 408 of the Robert
 12 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
 13 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174);

14 (4) the terms “families” has the meaning given
 15 the term in section 3(b) of the United States Hous-
 16 ing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)); and

17 (5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
 18 of Housing and Urban Development.

19 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF DISASTER HOUSING ASSIST-**
 20 **ANCE PROGRAM FOR MAJOR DISASTERS IN**
 21 **2017.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
 23 408(a)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
 24 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(a)(1)), not
 25 later than 10 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

1 the Administrator shall enter into an agreement or agree-
2 ments with the Secretary to establish a temporary pro-
3 gram that provides long-term rental housing assistance
4 under such section 408 to eligible families affected by a
5 covered disaster.

6 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The design and administra-
7 tion of the program established under subsection (a) shall
8 be determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the
9 Administrator, to ensure optimal program effectiveness.

10 (c) GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
11 January 20, 2020, the Comptroller General of the United
12 States shall submit to Congress a report that examines
13 the results of the program established under subsection
14 (a), including the cost-effectiveness of the program and
15 the ability of families participating in the program to sta-
16 bilize their living situation.

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