

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6071

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to modify the Federal share requirement and establish a period of performance requirement for the hazard mitigation grant program, to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to modify the Federal share requirement of emergency management performance grants, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2020

Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

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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 “FEMA Disaster Pre-  
3 paredness Improvement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. HAZARD MITIGATION.**

5 Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
6 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is  
7 amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “75” and in-  
9 serting “85”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(h) **EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY.**—Notwithstanding any  
12 other provision of this section, the President may provide  
13 hazard mitigation assistance in accordance with this sec-  
14 tion in any area designated by the Administrator under  
15 the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C.  
16 4001 et seq.) as an area having special flood hazards that  
17 has suffered at least one severe repetitive loss (as such  
18 term is defined in section 1307(h) of such Act) or repet-  
19 itive loss (as defined in section 1370 of such Act).

20 “(i) **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.**—

21 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A project receiving assist-  
22 ance under this section shall be completed not later  
23 than the date that is 36 months after the date of  
24 the completion of all applicable environmental re-  
25 views required by Federal or State law with respect

1 to such project or a later feasible date determined  
2 by the Administrator.

3 “(2) EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF PERFORM-  
4 ANCE.—Upon the request of a recipient of hazard  
5 mitigation assistance provided under this section,  
6 the Administrator may—

7 “(A) issue an extension of not more than  
8 1 year of the period of performance deadline de-  
9 scribed in paragraph (1); and

10 “(B) issue additional extensions of not  
11 more than 1 year upon the expiration of an ex-  
12 tension issued pursuant to subparagraph (A) or  
13 this subparagraph.

14 “(3) RULE OF STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—  
15 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to au-  
16 thorize the Administrator or a State delegated au-  
17 thority under subsection (c) to establish a period of  
18 performance shorter than the period of performance  
19 described in paragraph (1).”.

20 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE**  
21 **GRANTS PROGRAM.**

22 Section 662(c) of the Post-Katrina Emergency Man-  
23 agement Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 762) is amended  
24 by striking “50 percent” and inserting “85 percent”.

1 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS ON CHALLENGES**  
2 **UNDER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALTERNATIVE**  
3 **PROCEDURES.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the  
5 United States shall conduct a study on the challenges to  
6 States and Territories of the United States in obtaining  
7 assistance under section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford  
8 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 5189f).

10 (b) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study described  
11 in subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall study the  
12 challenges for assistance described in subsection (a) faced  
13 by the following:

14 (1) Rural areas, as such term is defined in sec-  
15 tion 423 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
16 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189a).

17 (2) Small impoverished communities, as such  
18 term is defined in section 203 of such Act.

19 (3) Other communities, areas, or individuals  
20 that the Comptroller General determines pertinent.

21 (c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year  
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
23 General shall submit to Congress a report describing the  
24 results of the study required under subsection (a).

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