

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1484

To provide disaster relief assistance to individuals for the purpose of clearing fallen debris, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2019

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide disaster relief assistance to individuals for the purpose of clearing fallen debris, 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 “Diversifying Emer-  
5       gency Benchmarks for the Recovery of Individuals after  
6       Storms Act” or the “DEBRIS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND**  
 2 **HOUSEHOLDS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 408(c)(2)(A) of the Rob-  
 4 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
 5 Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

6 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

7 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

8 and

9 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

10 “(ii) the removal of debris from  
 11 owner-occupied private residences and  
 12 property; and”.

13 (b) APPLICABILITY.—

14 (1) COVERED DISASTER DEFINED.—In this  
 15 subsection, the term “covered disaster” means a  
 16 major disaster declared by the President under sec-  
 17 tion 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
 18 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) on  
 19 or after May 1, 2018.

20 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made  
 21 by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any cov-  
 22 ered disaster.

23 (3) RESUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR ASSIST-  
 24 ANCE.—If a request for assistance, with respect to  
 25 a covered disaster, was made under section 408 of  
 26 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-

1       gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174), as in effect  
2       before the date of enactment of this Act, for the re-  
3       moval of debris from an owner-occupied private resi-  
4       dence or property and the request for such assist-  
5       ance was denied before the date of enactment of this  
6       Act, the request for assistance under such section  
7       408, as amended by this Act, may be resubmitted.

8       **SEC. 3. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN MAJOR DISASTER**  
9                   **DECLARATIONS.**

10       Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
11       of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency  
12       Management Agency shall, by rulemaking, amend the fac-  
13       tors considered when evaluating a Governor's request for  
14       a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford  
15       Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
16       5121 et seq.) to include the estimated cost of removing  
17       fallen debris from owner-occupied private residences and  
18       property.

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