

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 259

To provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2023

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Ms. PLASKETT, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Financial Services, 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

A BILL

To provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, 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 “Post-Disaster Assist-
5 ance Online Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUBPAGE FOR TRANSPARENCY OF DISASTER AS-**
2 **SISTANCE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPOSITORY FOR REPORT-
4 ING REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Man-
5 agement and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary
6 of the Treasury and the head of each covered Federal
7 agency, shall establish a subpage within the website estab-
8 lished under section 2 of the Federal Funding Account-
9 ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101
10 note) to publish the information required to be made avail-
11 able to the public under this section.

12 (b) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION BY FEDERAL
13 AGENCIES.—Not later than 30 days after the end of a
14 calendar quarter, each covered Federal agency that made
15 disaster assistance available to an eligible recipient during
16 such quarter shall, in coordination with the Director of
17 the Office of Management and Budget, make available to
18 the public on the subpage established under subsection (a)
19 the information described in subsection (c), and ensure
20 that any data asset of the agency is machine readable.

21 (c) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The information de-
22 scribed in this subsection is, with respect to disaster as-
23 sistance provided by the covered Federal agency—

24 (1) the total amount of disaster assistance pro-
25 vided by the agency during such quarter;

1 (2) the amount of disaster assistance provided
2 by the agency that was expended or obligated to
3 projects or activities; and

4 (3) a detailed list of all projects or activities for
5 which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency
6 was expended, obligated, or used, including—

7 (A) the name of the project or activity;

8 (B) a description of the project or activity;

9 (C) an evaluation of the completion status
10 of the project or activity;

11 (D) any award identification number as-
12 signed to the project;

13 (E) the Catalog for Disaster Assistance
14 number assigned by the Federal Emergency
15 Management Agency;

16 (F) the location of the project, including
17 ZIP Codes; and

18 (G) any reporting requirement information
19 being collected by a covered Federal agency
20 with respect to that agency's disaster assist-
21 ance.

22 (d) GUIDANCE.—Each covered Federal agency, in co-
23 ordination with the Director of the Office of Management
24 and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue

1 such guidance as is necessary to meet the requirements
2 of this Act.

3 (e) AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTITY.—The Di-
4 rector, if necessary for purposes of transparency, may
5 enter into an agreement with a private entity, including
6 a nonprofit organization, to develop the subpage required
7 under this section.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

10 (1) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term
11 “covered Federal agency” means—

12 (A) any agency providing assistance under
13 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
14 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et
15 seq.);

16 (B) the Small Business Administration;
17 and

18 (C) the Department of Housing and Urban
19 Development.

20 (2) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—The term “dis-
21 aster assistance” means any funds that are made
22 available by the Federal Government in response to
23 a specified natural disaster, including—

24 (A) any assistance provided by the Admin-
25 istrator of the Small Business Administration

1 as a result of a disaster declared under section
2 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
3 636(b));

4 (B) any assistance provided by the Sec-
5 retary of Housing and Urban Development
6 for—

7 (i) activities authorized under title I
8 of the Housing and Community Develop-
9 ment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)
10 related to disaster relief, long-term recov-
11 ery, restoration of infrastructure and hous-
12 ing, and economic revitalization in the
13 most impacted and distressed areas result-
14 ing from a major disaster declared pursu-
15 ant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
16 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
17 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

18 (ii) flood insurance coverage provided
19 under the National Flood Insurance Pro-
20 gram pursuant to the National Flood In-
21 surance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et
22 seq.); and

23 (C) any assistance provided under the Rob-
24 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
25 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

1 (3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
2 recipient”—

3 (A) means any entity that receives disaster
4 assistance directly from the Federal Govern-
5 ment (including disaster assistance received
6 through grant, loan, or contract) other than an
7 individual; and

8 (B) includes a State that receives disaster
9 assistance.

10 (4) SPECIFIED NATURAL DISASTER.—The term
11 “specified natural disaster” means—

12 (A) a fire on public or private forest land
13 or grassland described in section 420 of the
14 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
15 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187);

16 (B) a major disaster declared by the Presi-
17 dent under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
18 5170);

19 (C) an emergency declared by the Presi-
20 dent under section 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
21 5191); and

22 (D) any other natural disaster for which a
23 disaster declaration is made by the Federal
24 Government.

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