

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7071

To amend section 7(b) of the Small Business Act to make disaster loans available for damages caused by prolonged power outages, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2024

Ms. STEVENS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Small Business

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## A BILL

To amend section 7(b) of the Small Business Act to make disaster loans available for damages caused by prolonged power outages, 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. SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER LOANS FOR PRO-**  
4 **LONGED POWER OUTAGES.**

5 Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
6 636(b)) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating the second paragraph (16)  
8 as paragraph (17); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (17), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

“(18) PROLONGED POWER OUTAGE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of paragraphs (1)(A) and (2), the term ‘disaster’ includes prolonged power outages.

“(B) USE OF LOAN AMOUNTS.—In addition to any other allowable uses of a loan made under paragraph (1)(A) or (2), if a borrower receives such a loan pursuant to a disaster that is prolonged power outage, the borrower may use the proceeds of such loan to—

“(i) purchase energy resilience systems that enable the borrower to cope with and recover from disruptions to the commercial availability of electrical power, including generators, solar panels, wind turbines, microgrids, fuel cells, batteries, and other technologies that provide electrical generation and storage capabilities as determined appropriate by the Administrator; and

“(ii) pay for the cost of replacing any food and drink of the borrower that was lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for

1 human consumption as a result of such  
2 disaster.

3 “(C) PROLONGED POWER OUTAGE DE-  
4 FINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘prolonged  
5 power outage’ means—

6 “(i) for the purposes of paragraph  
7 (1)(A), a loss of electrical power that  
8 causes not fewer than 25 homes or 25  
9 business concerns, or any combination of  
10 not fewer than 25 homes, business con-  
11 cerns, or other eligible recipients of a loan  
12 under such paragraph, located in any  
13 county or smaller political subdivision of a  
14 State or territory or possession of the  
15 United States to each sustain uninsured  
16 losses of not less than 40 percent of the es-  
17 timated fair replacement value or pre-dis-  
18 aster fair market value of the damaged  
19 property, whichever is lower; and

20 “(ii) for the purposes of paragraph  
21 (2), not fewer than 25 homes or 25 busi-  
22 ness concerns, or any combination of not  
23 fewer than 25 homes, business concerns, or  
24 other eligible recipients of a loan under  
25 such paragraph, located in any county or

1 smaller political subdivision of a State or  
2 territory or possession of the United States  
3 concurrently losing electrical power for not  
4 fewer than 48 hours.”.

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