



## **Disaster Assistance Improvement and Decentralization (AID) Act Section-by-Section Summary**

### **SEC. 1 SHORT TITLE**

Disaster Assistance Improvement and Decentralization (AID) Act of 2025

### **Title I: DISASTER MITIGATION**

#### **SEC. 101 State Hazard Mitigation Officer Funding**

This section would establish a standalone funding source of \$100 million annually for the offices of State Hazard Mitigation Officers (SHMO).

#### **SEC. 102 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Sliding Scale**

This section would establish a sliding scale to lower the non-federal cost share of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) from 25 percent to as low as 15 percent, depending on a jurisdiction's administrative capacity. Jurisdictions that take steps to reduce disaster damages through proven mitigation efforts can also benefit from this sliding scale.

#### **SEC. 103 Hazard Mitigation**

This section would authorize states to pool together separate HMGP funding rounds for management and audit purposes. It would also subject the combined funds to the reporting deadlines of the most recent funding round.

Separately, this section would authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide not more than 50 percent of the amount of the estimated cost of hazard mitigation measures to a State grantee eligible for a grant under this section before eligible costs are incurred.

#### **SEC. 104 Report on Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Reform**

This section would direct FEMA to conduct stakeholder feedback with each SHMO, other hazard mitigation stakeholders, and state and local governments, and report to Congress on additional necessary reforms to HMGP.

#### **SEC. 105 Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation**

This section would prevent the President from using Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) set-aside funding for non-BRIC purposes. It would also require the President to obligate to states at least 10 percent of the BRIC set-aside fund each year or \$500 million, as adjusted by CPI-U, whichever is less.

#### **SEC. 106 Regulations**

This section would direct FEMA to promulgate regulations to implement the reforms under Title I.

### **Title II: PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

#### **SEC. 201 Public Assistance Management Costs**

This section would increase the Public Assistance (PA) management cost assistance cap to 15 percent.

#### **SEC. 202 Advance Assistance; Training**

This section would require FEMA to conduct an upfront, voluntary training for disaster-impacted jurisdictions to explain all available resources and funding streams at the jurisdiction's disposal.

Separately, the section would authorize FEMA to provide not more than 75 percent of the estimated cost of an eligible Public Assistance project before such costs are incurred.

It would also require FEMA to provide at least 25 and up to 75 percent of the estimated cost of an eligible Public Assistance project, if requested, before such costs are incurred to any recipient or subrecipient that has sustained significant damage costs compared to its annual budget.

#### **SEC. 203 Technical Assistance Pilot Program**

This section would authorize \$500 million annually between FY27-FY31 for a 5-year pilot program, whereby states may opt to either:

- Receive imbedded FEMA personnel to provide technical assistance to help low-capacity communities navigate the Public Assistance process, including assisting in scoping, damage documentation, and other related tasks; or

- Receive funding to hire additional state field personnel dedicated to helping low-capacity jurisdictions navigate the federal disaster assistance process, including scoping, damage documentation, grant writing, and other related tasks.

The section would also require FEMA to annually report to Congress on the program and, separately, direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study the effectiveness of the program and recommend whether to extend or expand it.

#### **SEC. 204 Simplified Procedures**

This section would modify FEMA's existing simplified procedures to cover costs incurred (instead of estimated costs) for small projects—up to an overrun of 50 percent of the cost estimate.

#### **SEC. 205 Simplified Procedures Pilot Program**

This section would establish a 5-year, opt-in pilot program, whereby FEMA may select certain jurisdictions and authorize them to subject projects under \$10 million (tied to CPI-U) to simplified administrative procedures. It would also direct GAO to audit the program, study the effectiveness of it, and recommend whether to extend or expand it.

#### **SEC. 206 Regulations**

This section would direct FEMA to promulgate regulations to implement the reforms under Title II.

### **Title III: OTHER PROVISIONS**

#### **SEC. 301 Substantially Damaged Structures**

This section would require FEMA, upon the request of a State, tribal, or territorial government, to cover the full cost of relocation of a government facility if that facility sustains 30 percent damage on more than two occasions or 50 percent damage on one occasion.

#### **SEC. 302 Eligibility of Subgovernmental Units for Assistance**

This section would allow a State or political subdivision of a State (such as Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions) to submit applications and serve as an agent on behalf of a local government, subject to the assent of that local government.

#### **SEC. 303 General Administration of Disaster and Emergency Assistance**

This section would require FEMA to promptly inform the public about any prolonged pause in the disbursement of Stafford Act funds and disclose the rationale, expected duration, and legal authority for that pause, as well as provide resources to check the status of the pause.

#### **SEC. 304 Deduction for Traveling Expenses for Federal Disaster Relief Workers Away from Home for More Than 1 Year**

This section would provide a tax deduction for traveling expenses for federal disaster relief workers away from home for more than 1 year.

#### **SEC. 305 Dual Compensation**

This section would empower the FEMA Administrator to waive the statutory prohibition on dual compensation of salary and pension for retired personnel that FEMA rehires.

#### **SEC. 306 Excess Management Costs**

This section would authorize FEMA to make excess management costs, funds not used when the grant award is closed, available to grantees and subgrantees for use in activities related to building capacity to prepare for, recover from, or mitigate the impact of different or future disasters.

#### **SEC. 307 Timeline for Award of Management Costs**

This section would increase FEMA's pre-12-month reimbursement caps for Public Assistance and hazard mitigation management costs to the following:

- 30 days after disaster declaration: Up to 50 percent
- 180 days after disaster declaration: Up to 75 percent
- 12 months after disaster declaration: Up to 100 percent

#### **SEC. 308 Regulation Simplification**

This section would direct GAO to review FEMA regulations and report to Congress on recommendations to modify or eliminate regulations that are redundant or overly burdensome, particularly for low-capacity jurisdictions.

#### **SEC. 309 Report on Advance Assistance**

This section would direct FEMA to report to Congress annually on its exercise of advance assistance authority for Public Assistance projects and hazard mitigation measures.