

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To enhance local capacity and expand local control over the disaster response, recovery, and preparedness process, to guarantee stable Federal funding streams for disaster-impacted communities, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. WELCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To enhance local capacity and expand local control over the disaster response, recovery, and preparedness process, to guarantee stable Federal funding streams for disaster-impacted communities, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Disaster Assistance Improvement and Decentralization  
6 Act” or the “Disaster AID Act”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

## 2

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

## TITLE I—DISASTER MITIGATION

Sec. 101. State hazard mitigation officer funding.

Sec. 102. Hazard mitigation grant program sliding scale.

Sec. 103. Hazard mitigation.

Sec. 104. Report on hazard mitigation grant program reform.

Sec. 105. Predisaster hazard mitigation.

Sec. 106. Regulations.

## TITLE II—PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Sec. 201. Public assistance management costs.

Sec. 202. Advance assistance; training.

Sec. 203. Technical assistance pilot program.

Sec. 204. Simplified procedures.

Sec. 205. Simplified procedures pilot program.

Sec. 206. Regulations.

## TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Substantially damaged structures.

Sec. 302. Eligibility of subgovernmental units for assistance.

Sec. 303. General administration of disaster and emergency assistance.

Sec. 304. Deduction for traveling expenses for Federal disaster relief workers  
away from home for more than 1 year.

Sec. 305. Dual compensation.

Sec. 306. Excess funds for management costs.

Sec. 307. Timeline for award of management costs.

Sec. 308. Regulation simplification.

Sec. 309. Report on advance assistance.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
4 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal  
5 Emergency Management Agency.

6 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
7 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
8 mittees” means the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
9 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the  
10 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the  
11 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of

1 the House of Representatives, and the Committee on  
2 Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

3 (3) CHIEF EXECUTIVE; GOVERNOR; STATE; IN-  
4 DIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The terms “Chief Ex-  
5 ecutive”, “Governor”, “State”, and “Indian tribal  
6 government” have the meanings given the terms in  
7 section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
8 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

9 (4) HIGH-CAPACITY JURISDICTION.—The term  
10 “high-capacity jurisdiction” means a jurisdiction  
11 that has sufficient resources to administer projects  
12 funded with assistance under the Robert T. Stafford  
13 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
14 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) with minimal support, as deter-  
15 mined by the Governor or Chief Executive of the  
16 State or Indian tribal government in which the juris-  
17 diction is located and based on criteria established  
18 by the Administrator.

19 (5) LOW-CAPACITY JURISDICTION.—The term  
20 “low-capacity jurisdiction” means a jurisdiction that  
21 faces structural barriers to planning for, securing,  
22 implementing, or sustaining public investments in  
23 disaster resilience due to limited staffing, institu-  
24 tional partnerships, fiscal resources, or access to  
25 technical expertise that make it difficult to admin-

1       ister projects funded with assistance under the Rob-  
2       ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
3       sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)—

4               (A) as determined by the Governor or  
5       Chief Executive of the State or Indian tribal  
6       government in which the jurisdiction is located;  
7       and

8               (B) based on criteria established by the  
9       Administrator.

10       (6) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.—The term “public as-  
11       sistance” means assistance awarded under the pro-  
12       grams under section 403, 406, 407, and 502 of the  
13       Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
14       Assistance Act (5170b, 5172, 5173, 5192).

## 15   **TITLE I—DISASTER MITIGATION**

### 16   **SEC. 101. STATE HAZARD MITIGATION OFFICER FUNDING.**

17       Tile II of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
18       Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131 et seq.) is  
19       amended by adding at the end the following:

### 20   **“SEC. 207. STATE HAZARD MITIGATION OFFICE FUNDING.**

21       “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘State  
22       hazard mitigation office’ means the official office or rep-  
23       resentative of a State or Indian tribal government that  
24       is the primary point of contact with the Federal Emer-  
25       gency Management Agency, other Federal agencies, and

1 local governments in mitigation planning and imple-  
2 menting mitigation programs and activities required under  
3 this Act.

4 “(b) FUNDING.—The President may award financial  
5 assistance to States and Indian tribal governments for the  
6 purpose of funding the State hazard mitigation office of  
7 the State or Indian tribal government.

8 “(c) AMOUNT.—The amount of financial assistance  
9 awarded to each State or Indian tribal government under  
10 subsection (b))—

11 “(1) shall be not less than 1 percent of the total  
12 financial assistance awarded under that paragraph  
13 in any fiscal year; and

14 “(2) after satisfying paragraph (1), shall be  
15 proportional to the population of each State and In-  
16 dian tribal government.

17 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
18 is authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry  
19 out this section \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and  
20 each fiscal year thereafter.”.

21 **SEC. 102. HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM SLIDING**  
22 **SCALE.**

23 Section 404(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
24 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(a))  
25 is amended—

1           (1) by striking “The President may” and in-  
2       serting the following:

3           “(1) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Subject to para-  
4       graph (2), the President may”; and

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

6           “(2) SLIDING SCALE.—The President may in-  
7       crease the percentage contributed towards hazard  
8       mitigation measures under paragraph (1) to not  
9       more than 85 percent for low-capacity jurisdictions  
10      (as defined in section 2 of the Disaster Assistance  
11      Improvement and Decentralization Act).”.

12   **SEC. 103. HAZARD MITIGATION.**

13       (a) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION BY STATES.—Sec-  
14      tion 404(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
15      Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(c)) is amend-  
16      ed by adding at the end the following:

17           “(6) MULTIPLE AWARDS.—With respect to a  
18      State or Indian tribal government that receives mul-  
19      tiple concurrent contributions under subsection (a),  
20      the State or Indian tribal government may—

21           “(A) combine amounts from each of those  
22      contributions to create a single fund for man-  
23      agement costs (as defined in section 324(a))  
24      and audit purposes; and

1                   “(B) apply any project completion, audit-  
2                   ing, or reporting deadline associated with the  
3                   most recent contribution to any other concur-  
4                   rent contribution.”.

5           (b) ADVANCE ASSISTANCE.—Section 404(e) of the  
6 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
7 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(e)) is amended by striking “25  
8 percent” and inserting “50 percent”.

9   **SEC. 104. REPORT ON HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PRO-**  
10                   **GRAM REFORM.**

11           Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
12 of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with State  
13 hazard mitigation offices (as defined in section 404(h) of  
14 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
15 sistance Act, as added by this Act), State, local, Tribal,  
16 and territorial governments, and other stakeholders, shall  
17 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-  
18 port on necessary reforms to reduce administrative bur-  
19 dens and enhance the delivery of assistance under the pro-  
20 gram established under section 404 of the Robert T. Staf-  
21 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
22 U.S.C. 5170c).

1 **SEC. 105. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.**

2 Section 203(i) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
3 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is  
4 amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “may set  
6 aside” and inserting “shall set aside”; and

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

8 “(4) PROHIBITION.—The President may not  
9 use amounts set aside under paragraph (1) for a  
10 purpose other than a purpose described in para-  
11 graph (1).

12 “(5) REQUIREMENT.—Of the amounts set aside  
13 under paragraph (1) each fiscal year, the President  
14 shall obligate not less than the lesser of—

15 “(A) 10 percent; and

16 “(B) \$500,000,000, as adjusted annually  
17 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index  
18 for All Urban Consumers published by the De-  
19 partment of Labor.”.

20 **SEC. 106. REGULATIONS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days after the  
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
23 issue a final rulemaking that implements this title and the  
24 amendments made by this title.

25 (b) INTERIM GUIDANCE.—Not later than 60 days  
26 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator



1 shall issue interim guidance to implement this title and  
2 the amendments made by this title that expires upon the  
3 earlier of—

4 (1) 540 days after the of enactment of this Act;  
5 and

6 (2) the issuance of the final rulemaking under  
7 subsection (a).

8 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the  
9 date on which the Administrator issues the final rule-  
10 making under subsection (a), the Administrator shall issue  
11 any necessary guidance related to the rulemaking.

12 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
13 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit  
14 to the appropriate congressional committees a report sum-  
15 marizing the rulemaking and guidance issued under sub-  
16 sections (a) and (c).

## 17 **TITLE II—PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

### 18 **SEC. 201. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

19 Section 324(b)(2)(B) of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-  
20 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
21 5165b(b)(2)(B))—

22 (1) by striking “12 percent” and inserting “15  
23 percent”; and

24 (2) by striking “7 percent” and inserting “10  
25 percent”.

1   **SEC. 202. ADVANCE ASSISTANCE; TRAINING.**

2           Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
3   and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.),  
4   is amended by adding at the end the following:

5   **“SEC. 328. TRAINING.**

6           “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the  
7   date on which the President declares a major disaster  
8   under section 401 with respect to a jurisdiction and upon  
9   the request of the Governor or Chief Executive of the ju-  
10   risdiction, the President shall conduct an intensive train-  
11   ing for the jurisdiction and any governmental agency of  
12   the jurisdiction.

13          “(b) SUPPLEMENT.—The training conducted under  
14   subsection (a) for a jurisdiction shall supplement any  
15   training or briefing convened by the jurisdiction.

16          “(c) CONTENTS.—The training conducted under sub-  
17   section (a) shall, at a minimum, explain—

18               “(1) the process of receiving resources and fi-  
19               nancial assistance relating to a major disaster under  
20               this Act, beginning with the declaration of the major  
21               disaster and ending with the disbursement of re-  
22               sources or financial assistance;

23               “(2) each resource and financial assistance  
24               award available to the jurisdiction under this Act;

1 “(3) the required documentation and eligibility  
2 criteria for each resource and financial assistance  
3 award available to the jurisdiction under this Act;

4 “(4) acronyms and other terms of art regularly  
5 used by the Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
6 cy; and

7 “(5) any other concepts or processes the Presi-  
8 dent determines necessary.

9 “(d) VIRTUAL OFFERING.—The training required  
10 under subsection (a) may be offered virtually when reason-  
11 ably practicable.

12 **“SEC. 329. ADVANCE ASSISTANCE.**

13 “(a) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—In this section,  
14 the term ‘public assistance’ means assistance awarded  
15 under the programs under section 403, 406, 407, and 502.

16 “(b) ADVANCE ASSISTANCE.—With respect to a  
17 grantee or subgrantee of public assistance using the public  
18 assistance for a project, the President—

19 “(1) may provide not more than 75 percent of  
20 the estimated cost of the project before costs are in-  
21 curred; and

22 “(2) upon request of the grantee or subgrantee,  
23 shall provide not less than 25 percent and not more  
24 than 75 percent of the estimated cost of a project  
25 before costs are incurred if the grantee or sub-

1 grantee sustains damage, as measured by a prelimi-  
2 nary damage assessment, which may include the  
3 sum of multiple preliminary damage assessments for  
4 projects using public assistance in the jurisdiction,  
5 that is—

6 “(A) with respect to a project being per-  
7 formed in a jurisdiction with a population of  
8 not more than 2,000, not less than the annual  
9 budget of the grantee or subgrantee during the  
10 preceding fiscal year;

11 “(B) with respect to a project being per-  
12 formed in a jurisdiction with a population be-  
13 tween 2,001 and 3,500, not less than 2 times  
14 larger than the annual budget of the grantee or  
15 subgrantee during the preceding fiscal year;  
16 and

17 “(C) with respect to a project being per-  
18 formed in a jurisdiction with a population be-  
19 tween 3,501 and 5,000, not less than 3 times  
20 larger than the annual budget of the grantee or  
21 subgrantee during the preceding fiscal year.

22 “(c) SAFEGUARDS.—A grantee or subgrantee of pub-  
23 lic assistance receiving assistance under subsection (b)  
24 shall provide to the Administrator methodology of the

1 grantee or subgrantee to ensure safeguards against waste,  
2 fraud, and abuse.”.

3 **SEC. 203. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after  
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator may  
6 establish a program under which, upon the request of a  
7 Governor or Chief Executive of a State or Indian Tribal  
8 government, the Administrator may award assistance to  
9 the State or Indian tribal government that includes—

10 (1) the assignment of employees of the Federal  
11 Emergency Management Agency to the State or In-  
12 dian tribal government to provide technical assist-  
13 ance for low-capacity jurisdictions throughout the  
14 public assistance process, including with the respect  
15 to—

16 (A) project scoping;

17 (B) damage documentation;

18 (C) training State or Indian tribal govern-  
19 ment personnel to be knowledgeable about all  
20 available programs under the Robert T. Staf-  
21 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

23 (D) other related tasks; or

24 (2) funding to hire additional employees or con-  
25 tractors of the State to help low-capacity jurisdic-

1        tions navigate the process of applying for and receiv-  
2        ing for assistance under this Act, including—

3                    (A) project scoping;

4                    (B) damage documentation;

5                    (C) the grant application process; and

6                    (D) other related tasks.

7        (b) SELECTION.—In selecting States and Indian trib-  
8        al governments to which to award assistance under this  
9        section, the Administrator shall determine the need of the  
10       State or Indian tribal government for assistance based  
11       on—

12                    (1) the hazard risk of the State or Indian tribal  
13       government based on the National Risk Index;

14                    (2) the existing disaster management capacity  
15       of the State or Indian tribal government, as meas-  
16       ured by the number of available personnel and the  
17       amount of resources of the State or Indian tribal  
18       government;

19                    (3) the availability of a nongovernmental dis-  
20       aster response and recovery capacity in the State or  
21       Indian tribal government; and

22                    (4) any other factor determined necessary by  
23       the Administrator.

1 (c) TERMINATION.—The program established under  
2 subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 5 years  
3 after the establishment of the program.

4 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
5 of the establishment of the program under subsection (a),  
6 and annually thereafter until the date described in sub-  
7 section (d), the Administrator shall submit to the appro-  
8 priate congressional committees a report on the program  
9 that includes—

10 (1) a list of the States and Indian tribal gov-  
11 ernments that have received assistance under the  
12 program; and

13 (2) an account of the form and scope of the as-  
14 sistance provided under the program to each State  
15 and Indian tribal government.

16 (e) GAO AUDIT.—Not later than 3 years after the  
17 date of the establishment of the program under subsection  
18 (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

19 (1) conduct an audit of the program;

20 (2) study the effectiveness of the program; and

21 (3) submit to the appropriate congressional  
22 committees a recommendation whether to extend or  
23 expand the program.

24 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
25 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator

1 \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031  
2 to carry out this section.

3 **SEC. 204. SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES.**

4 Section 422 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
5 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189) is  
6 amended by striking subsection (a) and the undesignated  
7 matter preceding subsection (b) and inserting the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

10 “(1) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—In this subsection,  
11 the term ‘eligible project’ means a project—

12 “(A)(i) under section 406 that includes re-  
13 pairing, restoring, or replacing any damaged or  
14 destroyed public facility or private nonprofit fa-  
15 cility;

16 “(ii) with emergency assistance under sec-  
17 tion 403 or 502; or

18 “(iii) under section 407 relating to debris  
19 removal; and

20 “(B) the Federal cost estimate of which is less  
21 than the greater of—

22 “(i) \$1,000,00, which shall be adjusted to  
23 reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for  
24 All Urban Consumers by the Department of  
25 Labor—



1 “(I) on the date of enactment of the  
2 Disaster Assistance Improvement and De-  
3 centralization Act for the period between  
4 October 10, 2022, and such date; and

5 “(II) annually thereafter; and

6 “(ii) if the Administrator of the Federal  
7 Emergency Management Agency has estab-  
8 lished a threshold under subsection (b), the  
9 amount established under subsection (b)).

10 “(2) COST COVERAGE.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On application by a  
12 State or local government that performs an eli-  
13 gible project, the President may make the con-  
14 tribution of the State or local government under  
15 section 403, 406, 407, or 502, as the case may  
16 be, on the basis of the cost incurred from the  
17 performance of the eligible project.

18 “(B) LIMIT.—The amount of the contribu-  
19 tion under subparagraph (A) with respect to an  
20 eligible project may not exceed 150 percent of  
21 the Federal cost estimate of the eligible project.

22 “(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (2) shall not  
23 apply with respect to a State or local government if  
24 the cost of the performance of an eligible project by  
25 the State or local government exceeds the cost esti-

1       mate of the eligible project as a result of poor man-  
2       agement, fraud, or waste.”.

3   **SEC. 205. SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES PILOT PROGRAM.**

4       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after  
5 the date of enactment of this Act, notwithstanding the  
6 amount specified under section 422(a) of the Robert T.  
7 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
8 (42 U.S.C. 5189(a)), the Administrator shall establish a  
9 pilot program under which the Administrator may select  
10 high-capacity jurisdictions performing a project under sec-  
11 tion 403, 406, 407, or 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b,  
12 5172, 5173, 5192), the cost of which is less than  
13 \$10,000,000, to be eligible for the contribution described  
14 in such section 422(a).

15       (b) ADJUSTMENT OF AMOUNT.—Not less frequently  
16 than annually, the Administrator shall adjust the amount  
17 specified in subsection (a) to reflect changes in the Con-  
18 sumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by  
19 the Department of Labor.

20       (c) SAFEGUARDS.—A high-capacity jurisdiction se-  
21 lected under subsection (a) shall provide to the Adminis-  
22 trator methodology of the high-capacity jurisdiction to en-  
23 sure safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse.

1 (d) TERMINATION.—The program established under  
2 subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 5 years  
3 after the date of the establishment of the program.

4 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
5 of the establishment of the program under subsection (a),  
6 and annually thereafter until the date described in sub-  
7 section (d), the Administrator shall submit to the appro-  
8 priate congressional committees a report on the program.

9 (f) GAO AUDIT.—Not later than 3 years after the  
10 date of the establishment of the program under subsection  
11 (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

12 (1) conduct an audit of the program;

13 (2) study the effectiveness of the program; and

14 (3) submit to the appropriate congressional  
15 committees a recommendation whether to extend or  
16 expand the program.

17 **SEC. 206. REGULATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days after the  
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
20 issue a final rulemaking that implements this title and the  
21 amendments made by this title.

22 (b) INTERIM GUIDANCE.—Not later than 60 days  
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
24 shall issue interim guidance to implement this title and

1 the amendments made by this title that expires upon the  
2 earlier of—

3 (1) 540 days after the of enactment of this Act;  
4 and

5 (2) the issuance of the final rulemaking under  
6 subsection (a).

7 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the  
8 date on which the Administrator issues the final rule-  
9 making under subsection (a), the Administrator shall issue  
10 any necessary guidance related to the rulemaking.

11 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
12 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit  
13 to the appropriate congressional committees a report sum-  
14 marizing the rulemaking and guidance issued under sub-  
15 sections (a) and (c).

## 16 **TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS**

### 17 **SEC. 301. SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGED STRUCTURES.**

18 (a) FACILITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term  
19 “facility” means a facility that provides critical services,  
20 including—

21 (1) power;

22 (2) water, including water provided by an irri-  
23 gation organization or facility described in section  
24 206.221(e)(3) of title 44, Code of Federal Regula-  
25 tions, or any successor regulation;

- 1 (3) sewer;
- 2 (4) wastewater treatment;
- 3 (5) communications;
- 4 (6) medical care;
- 5 (7) fire response; and
- 6 (8) other emergency rescue services.

7 (b) REQUIREMENT.—With respect to the approval of  
8 funding and requirement to restore a destroyed facility at  
9 a new location described in section 206.226(g) of title 44,  
10 Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect as of the date  
11 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall approve  
12 the funding and require that restoration with respect to  
13 a facility if—

14 (1)(A) the facility sustains not less than 30 per-  
15 cent damage on not less than 2 occasions; or

16 (B) the facility sustains not less than 50 per-  
17 cent damage; and

18 (2) the State or Indian tribal government with  
19 jurisdiction over the facility requests the restoration  
20 at a new location.

21 **SEC. 302. ELIGIBILITY OF SUBGOVERNMENTAL UNITS FOR**  
22 **ASSISTANCE.**

23 Section 102(8) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster  
24 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(8))  
25 is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

3 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period  
4 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(D) includes any State or political sub-  
7 division of a State authorized by a local govern-  
8 ment to submit an application under this Act  
9 and serve as an agent on behalf of the local  
10 government.”.

11 **SEC. 303. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF DISASTER AND**  
12 **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

13 Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
14 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.),  
15 as amended by title II, is further amended by adding at  
16 the end the following:

17 **“SEC. 330. REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY DURING PROLONGED**  
18 **PAUSE IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

19 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) PAUSE.—The term ‘pause’ means any ac-  
21 tion to pause, freeze, cancel, suspend, terminate, or  
22 otherwise impede the disbursement of appropriated  
23 Federal funds to States and Indian tribal govern-  
24 ments awarded under grants, executed contracts, or  
25 other executed financial obligations.

1           “(2) PROLONGED.—The term ‘prolonged’  
2       means a cumulative period of not less than 26 busi-  
3       ness days during any fiscal year.

4       “(b) REQUIREMENT.—In the event of a prolonged  
5       pause in the disbursement of Federal funds appropriated  
6       for the purpose of carrying out this Act, not later than  
7       5 business days after the date on which the pause becomes  
8       prolonged, the President shall make the following informa-  
9       tion publicly available:

10           “(1) The rationale for the pause.

11           “(2) The expected duration of the pause.

12           “(3) The legal authority for the pause.

13           “(4) Resources to check the status of the  
14       pause.”.

15       **SEC. 304. DEDUCTION FOR TRAVELING EXPENSES FOR**  
16                       **FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF WORKERS AWAY**  
17                       **FROM HOME FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR.**

18       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 162(a) of the Internal  
19       Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “or is cer-  
20       tified by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency  
21       Management Agency as traveling on behalf of the United  
22       States in temporary duty status to respond to a federally  
23       declared disaster (as defined in section 165(i)(5)(A))”  
24       after “a Federal crime”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
2 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
3 the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 305. DUAL COMPENSATION.**

5 The Administrator may waive the application of sub-  
6 sections (a) through (h) of section 8344, or subsections  
7 (a) through (e) of section 8468, of title 5, United States  
8 Code, on a case-by-case basis, for—

9 (1) an employee of the Federal Emergency  
10 Management Agency in a position for which there is  
11 exceptional difficulty in recruiting or retaining a  
12 qualified employee; or

13 (2) an employee of the Federal Emergency  
14 Management Agency serving on a temporary basis,  
15 but only if, and for so long as, the authority is nec-  
16 essary due to an emergency involving a direct threat  
17 to life or property or other unusual circumstances.

18 **SEC. 306. EXCESS FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324 of the Robert T.  
20 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
21 (42 U.S.C. 5165b) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b)(2), as amended by title I  
23 of this Act—



1 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)  
2 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and  
3 adjusting the margins accordingly; and

4 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as  
5 so redesignated, by striking “provide the fol-  
6 lowing percentage rates” and inserting “provide  
7 “(A) excess funds for management costs as  
8 described in subsection (c); and

9 “(B) the following percentage rates”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
11 section (d); and

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
13 lowing:

14 “(c) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT  
15 COSTS.—

16 “(1) DEFINITION OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR MAN-  
17 AGEMENT COSTS.—In this subsection, the term ‘ex-  
18 cess funds for management costs’ means the dif-  
19 ference between—

20 “(A) the amount of the applicable specific  
21 management costs authorized under subsection  
22 (b)(1) and subsection (b)(2)(B); and

23 “(B) as of the date on which the grant  
24 award is closed, the amount of funding for  
25 management costs activities expended by the

1 grantee or subgrantee receiving the financial as-  
2 sistance for costs described in subparagraph  
3 (A).

4 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR  
5 MANAGEMENT COSTS.—The President may make  
6 available to a grantee or subgrantee receiving finan-  
7 cial assistance under section 403, 404, 406, 407,  
8 409, or 502 any excess funds for management costs.

9 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Excess funds for man-  
10 agement costs made available to a grantee or sub-  
11 grantee under paragraph (2) may be used for—

12 “(A) activities associated with building ca-  
13 pacity to prepare for, recover from, or mitigate  
14 the impacts of a major disaster or emergency  
15 declared under section 401 or 501, respectively;  
16 and

17 “(B) management costs associated with  
18 any—

19 “(i) major disaster;

20 “(ii) emergency;

21 “(iii) disaster preparedness measure;

22 or

23 “(iv) mitigation activity or measure  
24 authorized under section 203, 204, 205, or  
25 404.”.

1 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by  
2 paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any grant award  
3 in relation to a major disaster or emergency declared  
4 under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T.  
5 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
6 (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191) the declaration of which is made  
7 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 307. TIMELINE FOR AWARD OF MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

9 Section 324(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
10 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165b(b))  
11 is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(3) MANAGEMENT COST INCREMENTS.—The  
13 President may award a grantee under section 404,  
14 403, 406, 407, or 502—

15 “(A) by the date that is 30 days after the  
16 date on which the President declares the appli-  
17 cable major disaster under section 401, 50 per-  
18 cent of the amount of the applicable manage-  
19 ment costs described in paragraph (2);

20 “(B) by the date that is 180 days after the  
21 date on which the President declares the appli-  
22 cable major disaster under section 401, 75 per-  
23 cent of the amount of the applicable manage-  
24 ment costs described in paragraph (2); and

1                   “(C) by the date that is 1 year after the  
2                   date on which the President declares the appli-  
3                   cable major disaster under section 401, 100  
4                   percent of the applicable management costs de-  
5                   scribed in paragraph (2).”.

6 **SEC. 308. REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION.**

7           Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
8 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
9 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
10 a report that includes—

11                   (1) a review of the regulations promulgated by  
12                   the Administrator; and

13                   (2) recommendations for modifying or elimi-  
14                   nating regulations promulgated by the Administrator  
15                   that are redundant or overly burdensome, particu-  
16                   larly for low-capacity jurisdictions.

17 **SEC. 309. REPORT ON ADVANCE ASSISTANCE.**

18           Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
19 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator  
20 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
21 a report—

22                   (1) on the exercise of the authority of the Ad-  
23                   ministrator to provide advance assistance under—

1 (A) section 404(e) of the Robert T. Staf-  
2 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(e)); and

4 (B) section 329 of the Robert T. Stafford  
5 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act,  
6 as added by this Act; and

7 (2) that includes a comprehensive account of  
8 the frequency and extent of invocation of the author-  
9 ity described in paragraph (1).