

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. J. RES. 193**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Granting the consent of Congress to the Emergency  
Management Assistance Compact.

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Granting the consent of Congress to the Emergency  
Management Assistance Compact.

1        *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.**

4        The Congress consents to the Emergency Manage-  
5 ment Assistance Compact entered into by Delaware, Flor-

1 ida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri,  
 2 Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vir-  
 3 ginia, and West Virginia. The compact reads substantially  
 4 as follows:

5           **“Emergency Management Assistance**  
 6   **Compact**

7   “ARTICLE I.

8   “PURPOSE AND AUTHORITIES.

9           “This compact is made and entered into by and be-  
 10 tween the participating member states which enact this  
 11 compact, hereinafter called party states. For the purposes  
 12 of this compact, the term ‘states’ is taken to mean the  
 13 several states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Dis-  
 14 trict of Columbia, and all U.S. territorial possessions.

15           “‘The purpose of this compact is to provide for mutual  
 16 assistance between the states entering into this compact  
 17 in managing any emergency disaster that is duly declared  
 18 by the Governor of the affected state, whether arising from  
 19 natural disaster, technological hazard, man-made disaster,  
 20 civil emergency aspects of resources shortages, community  
 21 disorders, insurgency, or enemy attack.

22           “‘This compact shall also provide for mutual coopera-  
 23 tion in emergency-related exercises, testing, or other train-  
 24 ing activities using equipment and personnel simulating  
 25 performance of any aspect of the giving and receiving of

1 aid by party states or subdivisions of party states during  
2 emergencies, such actions occurring outside actual de-  
3 clared emergency periods. Mutual assistance in this com-  
4 pact may include the use of the states' National Guard  
5 forces, either in accordance with the National Guard Mu-  
6 tual Assistance Compact or by mutual agreement between  
7 states.

8 "ARTICLE II.

9 "GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION.

10 "Each party state entering into this compact recog-  
11 nizes that many emergencies transcend political jurisdic-  
12 tional boundaries and that intergovernmental coordination  
13 is essential in managing these and other emergencies  
14 under this compact. Each state further recognizes that  
15 there will be emergencies which require immediate access  
16 and present procedures to apply outside resources to make  
17 a prompt and effective response to such an emergency.  
18 This is because few, if any, individual states have all the  
19 resources they may need in all types of emergencies or  
20 the capability of delivering resources to areas where emer-  
21 gencies exist.

22 "The prompt, full, and effective utilization of re-  
23 sources of the participating states, including any resources  
24 on hand or available from the federal government or any  
25 other source, that are essential to the safety, care, and

1 welfare of the people in the event of any emergency or  
2 disaster declared by a party state, shall be the underlying  
3 principle on which all articles of this compact shall be un-  
4 derstood.

5       “On behalf of the Governor of each state participat-  
6 ing in the compact, the legally designated state official  
7 who is assigned responsibility for emergency management  
8 will be responsible for formulation of the appropriate  
9 interstate mutual aid plans and procedures necessary to  
10 implement this compact.

11                               “ARTICLE III.

12                               “PARTY STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.

13       “A. It shall be the responsibility of each party state  
14 to formulate procedural plans and programs for interstate  
15 cooperation in the performance of the responsibilities list-  
16 ed in this article. In formulating such plans, and in carry-  
17 ing them out, the party states, insofar as practical, shall:

18               “1. Review individual state hazards analyses  
19 and, to the extent reasonably possible, determine all  
20 those potential emergencies the party states might  
21 jointly suffer, whether due to natural disaster, tech-  
22 nological hazard, man-made disaster, emergency as-  
23 pects of resources shortages, civil disorders, insur-  
24 gency, or enemy attack;

1           “2. Review party states’ individual emergency  
2 plans and develop a plan which will determine the  
3 mechanism for the interstate management and pro-  
4 vision of assistance concerning any potential emer-  
5 gency;

6           “3. Develop interstate procedures to fill any  
7 identified gaps and to resolve any identified incon-  
8 sistencies or overlaps in existing or developed plans;

9           “4. Assist in warning communities adjacent to  
10 or crossing the state boundaries;

11           “5. Protect and assure uninterrupted delivery  
12 of services, medicines, water, food, energy and fuel,  
13 search and rescue, and critical lifeline equipment,  
14 services, and resources, both human and material;

15           “6. Inventory and set procedures for the inter-  
16 state loan and delivery of human and material re-  
17 sources, together with procedures for reimbursement  
18 or forgiveness; and

19           “7. Provide, to the extent authorized by law, for  
20 temporary suspension of any statutes or ordinances  
21 that restrict the implementation of the above respon-  
22 sibilities.

23           “B. The authorized representative of a party state  
24 may request assistance to another party state by contact-  
25 ing the authorized representative of that state. The provi-

1 sions of this compact shall only apply to requests for as-  
2 sistance made by and to authorized representatives. Re-  
3 quests may be verbal or in writing. If verbal, the request  
4 shall be confirmed in writing within thirty days of the  
5 verbal request. Requests shall provide the following infor-  
6 mation:

7           “1. A description of the emergency service func-  
8 tion for which assistance is needed, including, but  
9 not limited to, fire services, law enforcement, emer-  
10 gency medical, transportation, communications, pub-  
11 lic works and engineering, building, inspection, plan-  
12 ning and information assistance, mass care, resource  
13 support, health and medical services, and search and  
14 rescue;

15           “2. The amount and type of personnel, equip-  
16 ment, materials and supplies needed, and a reason-  
17 able estimate of the length of time they will be need-  
18 ed; and

19           “3. The specific place and time for staging of  
20 the assisting party’s response and a point of contact  
21 at that location.

22           “C. There shall be frequent consultation between  
23 state officials who have assigned emergency management  
24 responsibilities and other appropriate representatives of  
25 the party states with affected jurisdictions and the United

1 States Government, with free exchange of information,  
2 plans, and resource records relating to emergency capabili-  
3 ties.

4 “ARTICLE IV.

5 “LIMITATIONS.

6 “Any party state requested to render mutual aid or  
7 conduct exercises and training for mutual aid shall take  
8 such action as is necessary to provide and make available  
9 the resources covered by this compact in accordance with  
10 the terms hereof; provided that it is understood that the  
11 state rendering aid may withhold resources to the extent  
12 necessary to provide reasonable protection for such state.

13 “Each party state shall afford to the emergency  
14 forces of any party state, while operating within its state  
15 limits under the terms and conditions of this compact, the  
16 same powers, except that of arrest unless specifically au-  
17 thorized by the receiving state, duties, rights, and privi-  
18 leges as are afforded forces of the state in which they are  
19 performing emergency services. Emergency forces will con-  
20 tinue under the command and control of their regular  
21 leaders, but the organizational units will come under the  
22 operational control of the emergency services authorities  
23 of the state receiving assistance. These conditions may be  
24 activated, as needed, only subsequent to a declaration of  
25 a state emergency or disaster by the governor of the party

1 state that is to receive assistance or upon commencement  
2 of exercises or training for mutual aid and shall continue  
3 so long as the exercises or training for mutual aid are in  
4 progress, the state of emergency or disaster remains in  
5 effect, or loaned resources remain in the receiving state,  
6 whichever is longer.

7 “ARTICLE V.

8 “LICENSES AND PERMITS.

9 “Whenever any person holds a license, certificate, or  
10 other permit issued by any state party to the compact evi-  
11 dencing the meeting of qualifications for professional, me-  
12 chanical, or other skills, and when such assistance is re-  
13 quested by the receiving party state, such person shall be  
14 deemed licensed, certified, or permitted by the state re-  
15 questing assistance to render aid involving such skill to  
16 meet a declared emergency or disaster, subject to such  
17 limitations and conditions as the Governor of the request-  
18 ing state may prescribe by executive order or otherwise.

19 “ARTICLE VI.

20 “LIABILITY.

21 “Officers or employees of a party state rendering aid  
22 in another state pursuant to this compact shall be consid-  
23 ered agents of the requesting state for tort liability and  
24 immunity purposes. No party state or its officers or em-  
25 ployees rendering aid in another state pursuant to this

1 compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission  
2 in good faith on the part of such forces while so engaged  
3 or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment  
4 or supplies in connection therewith. Good faith in this arti-  
5 cle shall not include willful misconduct, gross negligence,  
6 or recklessness.

7 “ARTICLE VII.

8 “SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS.

9 “Inasmuch as it is probable that the pattern and de-  
10 tail of the machinery for mutual aid among two or more  
11 states may differ from that among the states that are  
12 party hereto, this compact contains elements of a broad  
13 base common to all states, and nothing herein shall pre-  
14 clude any state entering into supplementary agreements  
15 with another state or affect any other agreements already  
16 in force between states. Supplementary agreements may  
17 comprehend, but shall not be limited to, provisions for  
18 evacuation and reception of injured and other persons and  
19 the exchange of medical, fire, police, public utility, recon-  
20 naissance, welfare, transportation and communications  
21 personnel, and equipment and supplies.

22 “ARTICLE VIII.

23 “COMPENSATION.

24 “Each party state shall provide for the payment of  
25 compensation and death benefits to injured members of

1 the emergency forces of that state and representatives of  
2 deceased members of such forces in case such members  
3 sustain injuries or are killed while rendering aid pursuant  
4 to this compact, in the same manner and on the same  
5 terms as if the injury or death were sustained within their  
6 own state.

7 “ARTICLE IX.

8 “REIMBURSEMENT.

9 “Any party state rendering aid in another state pur-  
10 suant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the party  
11 state receiving such aid for any loss or damage to or ex-  
12 pense incurred in the operation of any equipment and the  
13 provision of any service in answering a request for aid and  
14 for the costs incurred in connection with such requests;  
15 provided, that any aiding party state may assume in whole  
16 or in part such loss, damage, expense, or other cost, or  
17 may loan such equipment or donate such services to the  
18 receiving party state without charge or cost; and provided  
19 further, that any two or more party states may enter into  
20 supplementary agreements establishing a different alloca-  
21 tion of costs among those states. Article VIII expenses  
22 shall not be reimbursable under this article.

1 “ARTICLE X.

2 “EVACUATION.

3 “Plans for the orderly evacuation and interstate re-  
4 ception of portions of the civilian population as the result  
5 of any emergency or disaster of sufficient proportions to  
6 so warrant, shall be worked out and maintained between  
7 the party states and the emergency management/services  
8 directors of the various jurisdictions where any type of in-  
9 cident requiring evacuations might occur. Such plans shall  
10 be put into effect by request of the state from which evacu-  
11 ees come and shall include the manner of transporting  
12 such evacuees, the number of evacuees to be received in  
13 different areas, the manner in which food, clothing, hous-  
14 ing, and medical care will be provided, the registration of  
15 the evacuees, the providing of facilities for the notification  
16 of relatives or friends, and the forwarding of such evacuees  
17 to other areas or the bringing in of additional materials,  
18 supplies, and all other relevant factors. Such plans shall  
19 provide that the party state receiving evacuees and the  
20 party state from which the evacuees come shall mutually  
21 agree as to reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses in-  
22 curred in receiving and caring for such evacuees, for ex-  
23 penditures for transportation, food, clothing, medicines,  
24 and medical care, and like items. Such expenditures shall  
25 be reimbursed as agreed by the party state from which

1 the evacuees come. After the termination of the emergency  
2 or disaster, the party state from which the evacuees come  
3 shall assume the responsibility for the ultimate support  
4 of repatriation of such evacuees.

5 “ARTICLE XI.

6 “IMPLEMENTATION.

7 “A. This compact shall become effective immediately  
8 upon its enactment into law by any two states. Thereafter,  
9 this compact shall become effective as to any other state  
10 upon enactment by such state.

11 “B. Any party state may withdraw from this compact  
12 by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such  
13 withdrawal shall take effect until thirty days after the  
14 Governor of the withdrawing state has given notice in  
15 writing of such withdrawal to the Governors of all other  
16 party states. Such action shall not relieve the withdrawing  
17 state from obligations assumed hereunder prior to the ef-  
18 fective date of withdrawal.

19 “C. Duly authenticated copies of this compact and  
20 of such supplementary agreements as may be entered into  
21 shall, at the time of their approval, be deposited with each  
22 of the party states and with the Federal Emergency Man-  
23 agement Agency and other appropriate agencies of the  
24 United States Government.

1 “ARTICLE XII.

2 “VALIDITY.

3 “This compact shall be construed to effectuate the  
4 purposes stated in Article I. If any provision of this com-  
5 pact is declared unconstitutional, or the applicability  
6 thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the  
7 constitutionality of the remainder of this compact and the  
8 applicability thereof to other persons and circumstances  
9 shall not be affected.

10 “ARTICLE XIII.

11 “ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

12 “Nothing in this compact shall authorize or permit  
13 the use of military force by the National Guard of a state  
14 at any place outside that state in any emergency for which  
15 the President is authorized by law to call into federal serv-  
16 ice the militia, or for any purpose for which the use of  
17 the Army or the Air Force would in the absence of express  
18 statutory authorization be prohibited under § 1385 of  
19 Title 18 of the United States Code.”.

20 **SEC. 2. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.**

21 The right to alter, amend, or repeal this joint resolu-  
22 tion is hereby expressly reserved. The consent granted by  
23 this joint resolution shall—

24 (1) not be construed as impairing or in any  
25 manner affecting any right or jurisdiction of the

1 United States in and over the subject of the com-  
2 pact;

3 (2) not be construed as consent to the National  
4 Guard Mutual Assistance Compact;

5 (3) be construed as understanding that the first  
6 paragraph of Article II of the compact provides that  
7 emergencies will require procedures to provide imme-  
8 diate access to existing resources to make a prompt  
9 and effective response;

10 (4) not be construed as providing authority in  
11 Article III A.7. that does not otherwise exist for the  
12 suspension of statutes or ordinances;

13 (5) be construed as understanding that Article  
14 III C. does not impose any affirmative obligation to  
15 exchange information, plans, and resource records  
16 on the United States or any party which has not en-  
17 tered into the compact; and

18 (6) be construed as understanding that Article  
19 XIII does not affect the authority of the President  
20 over the National Guard provided by article I of the  
21 Constitution and title 10 of the United States Code.

22 **SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.**

23 It is intended that the provisions of this compact shall  
24 be reasonably and liberally construed to effectuate the  
25 purposes thereof. If any part or application of this com-

1 pact, or legislation enabling the compact, is held invalid,  
2 the remainder of the compact or its application to other  
3 situations or persons shall not be affected.

4 **SEC. 4. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.**

5       The validity of this compact shall not be affected by  
6 any insubstantial difference in its form or language as  
7 adopted by the States.

      Passed the House of Representatives September 24,  
1996.

Attest:

*Clerk.*