

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1777

AN ACT

To provide relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

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 “Katrina Emergency
5 Assistance Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 410 of
3 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
4 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5177), in providing assistance
5 under that section to individuals unemployed as a result
6 of Hurricane Katrina—

7 (1) the President shall accept applications for
8 assistance during—

9 (A) the 90-day period beginning on the
10 date on which the applicable major disaster was
11 declared; or

12 (B) such longer period as may be estab-
13 lished by the President; and

14 (2) subject to subsection (b), the President
15 shall provide assistance to any unemployed indi-
16 vidual, to the extent the individual is not entitled to
17 unemployment compensation under any Federal or
18 State law, until that individual is reemployed in a
19 suitable position.

20 (b) LIMITATION FOR PERIOD OF ASSISTANCE.—The
21 total amount of assistance payable to an individual under
22 subsection (a) may not exceed payments based on a 39-
23 week period of unemployment.

24 **SEC. 3. REIMBURSEMENT FOR PURCHASES.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) DISASTER PERIOD.—The term “disaster pe-
2 riod” means, with respect to any State that includes
3 an area for which a major disaster has been declared
4 in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T.
5 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) as a result of Hurricane
7 Katrina or Hurricane Rita, the period beginning on
8 the earliest date on which any area of the State was
9 so declared and ending on the latest date for which
10 any such declaration of an area of the State termi-
11 nates.

12 (2) KATRINA OR RITA SURVIVOR.—The term
13 “Katrina or Rita Survivor” means an individual
14 who—

15 (A) resides in an area for which a major
16 disaster has been declared in accordance with
17 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
18 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
19 5170) as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hur-
20 ricane Rita; or

21 (B) resided in an area described in sub-
22 paragraph (A) during the 7 days immediately
23 preceding the date of declaration of a major
24 disaster described in subparagraph (A).

1 (3) MAJOR DISASTER.—The term “major dis-
 2 aster” has the meaning given the term in section
 3 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
 4 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

5 (b) REIMBURSEMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
 7 provision of law, the President may reimburse a
 8 community for each purchase of supplies (such as
 9 food, personal hygiene products, linens, and cloth-
 10 ing) distributed to Katrina or Rita Survivors.

11 (2) ELIGIBLE PURCHASES.—Reimbursement
 12 under paragraph (1) shall be available only with re-
 13 spect to supplies that—

14 (A) are purchased with taxpayer dollars;
 15 and

16 (B) would otherwise be eligible for reim-
 17 bursement if purchased by a Katrina or Rita
 18 Survivor.

19 (c) PERIOD OF APPLICABILITY.—This section and
 20 the authority provided by this section apply only to a com-
 21 munity assisting Katrina or Rita Survivors from a State
 22 during the disaster period of the State.

1 **SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DISPLACED BY**
2 **KATRINA.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that the Bureau of Immi-
4 gration and Customs Enforcement within the Department
5 of Homeland Security should suspend or refrain from ini-
6 tiating removal proceedings for international students and
7 scholars who are deportable solely due to their inability
8 to fulfill the terms of their visas as a result of a national
9 disaster, such as Hurricane Katrina.

10 **SEC. 5. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.**

11 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
12 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting
13 through the Under Secretary for Emergency Prepared-
14 ness, shall propose new inspection guidelines that prohibit
15 an inspector from entering into a contract with any indi-
16 vidual or entity for whom the inspector performs an in-
17 spection for purposes of determining eligibility for assist-
18 ance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Passed the Senate February 15, 2006.

Attest:

Secretary.

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