H. R. 6542

To improve assistance after a hurricane or major disaster.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Mr. RICHMOND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

A BILL

To improve assistance after a hurricane or major disaster.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “FEMA Reform Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. FAST FUNDING.

Not later than 3 days after the Federal Emergency Management Agency completes a preliminary damage assessment for any State or local government, 50 percent
of the amount estimated for such assessment shall be re-
leased to the State or local government.

SEC. 3. HAZARD MITIGATION.

Mitigation funding for a State under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) shall be disseminated with-
in areas of the State in proportion to the damage of a major disaster in such areas.

SEC. 4. REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND REPLACEMENT OP-
tions.

In addition to facilities covered under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5171), the President may make contributions to a State or local government to repair, re-
store, or replace vehicles and equipment, particularly vehi-
cles and equipment used for public safety, transportation, and service. If a vehicle or equipment is more than 50 percent damaged, the actual cash value of such vehicle or equipment may be used to replace it.

SEC. 5. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE.

The President may provide financial assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) to repair per-
manent structures, including rental units, necessary for
temporary or transitional housing in the areas affected by
a major disaster.

SEC. 6. DISASTER RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL OPTIONS.

For any major disaster that requires employees from
the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be available for an extended period of time in a major disaster
area to assist individuals with public assistance applica-
tions, the Agency shall establish a recruiting and training
office in such area as soon as possible to facilitate the hiring of local individuals to assist with such applications.

SEC. 7. UTILITIES.

Not later than 180 after the date of enactment of
this Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Depart-
ment of Energy shall evaluate and complete and publish
a report outlining recommendations to public and private
utilities, including electrical, water, sewer, and tele-
communications, to reduce service interruptions during
and after a hurricane.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act, the terms “local govern-
ment, major disaster, and State” have the same meanings
given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford
Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).