

Union Calendar No. 763

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7070

[Report No. 118–933]

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of certain mitigation projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2024

Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

DECEMBER 19, 2024

Additional sponsors: Ms. TITUS, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. LEVIN

DECEMBER 19, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 22, 2024]

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of certain mitigation projects, 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.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Wildfire Response Im-*
5 *provement Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POLICY.**

7 *Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of*
8 *this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-*
9 *agement Agency shall recommend such regulations or guid-*
10 *ance as are necessary to make eligible assessments and*
11 *emergency stabilization to protect public safety, including*
12 *for the fire management assistance program under section*
13 *420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-*
14 *gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), irrespective of the*
15 *incident period for a declared fire.*

16 **SEC. 3. CHANGES TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE POLICY GUIDE.**

17 *Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of*
18 *this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-*
19 *agement Agency shall amend the Public Assistance Program*
20 *and Policy Guide of the Federal Emergency Management*
21 *Agency to include guidance on wildfire-specific recovery*
22 *challenges, including debris removal, emergency protective*
23 *measures, and the resulting toxicity of drinking water re-*
24 *sources.*

1 **SEC. 4. MITIGATION COST-EFFECTIVENESS.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator of the Federal*
3 *Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a review of*
4 *the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of projects*
5 *intended to mitigate the impacts of wildfire under sections*
6 *203 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
7 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c), includ-*
8 *ing—*

9 (1) *the establishment of pre-calculated benefits*
10 *criterion for common defensible space mitigation*
11 *projects for wildfire mitigation;*

12 (2) *the use of nature-based infrastructure in*
13 *wildfire mitigation;*

14 (3) *considerations for vegetation management for*
15 *wildfire mitigation;*

16 (4) *reducing the negative effects of wildfire smoke*
17 *on public health; and*

18 (5) *lessening the impact of wildfires on water in-*
19 *frastructure.*

20 (b) *UPDATED CRITERIA.*—*Not later than 1 year after*
21 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall*
22 *issue such guidance as is necessary to—*

23 (1) *update criteria for evaluating the cost-effec-*
24 *tiveness of mitigation projects under sections 203 and*
25 *404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
26 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c)*

1 *based on the results of the review conducted under*
2 *subsection (a); and*

3 *(2) prioritize projects under such sections based*
4 *on the criteria updated under paragraph (1).*

5 **SEC. 5. WAIVER OF DUPLICATE BENEFITS.**

6 *Section 1210(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of*
7 *2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended—*

8 *(1) in paragraph (3) by striking “between Janu-*
9 *ary 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021” and inserting*
10 *“during the period beginning on January 1, 2016,*
11 *and ending on the date on which the provision con-*
12 *tained in such amendment is struck pursuant to*
13 *paragraph (4)”;*

14 *(2) in paragraph (4) by striking “5” and insert-*
15 *ing “10”;*

16 *(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-*
17 *graph (6); and*

18 *(4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-*
19 *lowing:*

20 *“(5) PROHIBITION ON INCOME THRESHOLD.—In*
21 *carrying out the amendment made by paragraph (1),*
22 *no income threshold may be applied to limit the eligi-*
23 *bility of a recipient from qualifying for a waiver*
24 *under the amendment made by such paragraph.”.*

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