

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2364

To provide for a waiver of duplication of benefits for certain assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as a result of a major disaster or emergency, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Ms. FOXX) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To provide for a waiver of duplication of benefits for certain assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as a result of a major disaster or emergency, 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 “Helene Small Business  
5       Recovery Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.**

7       (a) WAIVER OF GENERAL PROHIBITION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive  
2           the general prohibition provided in section 312(a) of  
3           the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
4           gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(a)) upon re-  
5           quest of a Governor on behalf of the State or on be-  
6           half of a person, business concern, or any other enti-  
7           ty suffering losses as a result of a major disaster or  
8           emergency, if the President finds such waiver is in  
9           the public interest and will not result in waste,  
10          fraud, or abuse. In making this decision, the Presi-  
11          dent may consider the following:

12                 (A) The recommendations of the Adminis-  
13                 tration of the Federal Emergency Management  
14                 Agency made in consultation with the Federal  
15                 agency or agencies administering the duplicative  
16                 program.

17                 (B) If a wavier is granted, the assistance  
18                 to be funded is cost effective.

19                 (C) Equity and good conscience.

20                 (D) Other matters of public policy consid-  
21                 ered appropriate by the President.

22          (2) GRANT OR DENIAL OF WAIVER.—A request  
23          under paragraph (1) shall be granted or denied not  
24          later than 45 days after submission of such request.

1           (3) PROHIBITION ON DETERMINATION THAT  
2       LOAN IS A DUPLICATION.—Notwithstanding section  
3       312(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
4       Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(c)), in  
5       carrying out paragraph (1), the President may not  
6       determine that a loan is a duplication of assistance,  
7       provided that all Federal assistance is used toward  
8       a loss suffered as a result of the major disaster or  
9       emergency.

10          (4) PROHIBITION ON INCOME THRESHOLD.—In  
11       carrying out this subsection, no income threshold  
12       may be applied to limit the eligibility of a recipient  
13       from qualifying for a waiver.

14       (b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall apply to  
15       the provision of assistance in response to a major disaster  
16       declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford  
17       Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act that oc-  
18       curred in calendar year 2023 or 2024.

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