

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1786

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a grant program for assisting small businesses and agricultural enterprises in meeting disaster-related expenses.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 26, 1999

Mr. LAUTENBERG introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a grant program for assisting small businesses and agricultural enterprises in meeting disaster-related expenses.

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. SMALL BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL ENTER-**  
4       **PRISE GRANT PROGRAM.**

5       Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
6       Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170a et seq.) is  
7       amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 425. SMALL BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL ENTER-**  
2 **PRISE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE.—The term  
5 ‘agricultural enterprise’ includes—

6 “(A) a farm not larger than a family farm  
7 (within the meaning of section 321(a) of the  
8 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act  
9 (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))); and

10 “(B) an enterprise engaged in the business  
11 of production of food or fiber, ranching or rais-  
12 ing of livestock, aquaculture, or any other farm-  
13 ing or agricultural related industry (within the  
14 meaning of section 3(a) of the Small Business  
15 Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a))).

16 “(2) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term ‘small busi-  
17 ness’ has the meaning given the term ‘small business  
18 concern’ under section 3 of the Small Business Act  
19 (15 U.S.C. 632).

20 “(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The President may make  
21 grants to assist small businesses and agricultural enter-  
22 prises adversely affected by a major disaster in meeting  
23 disaster-related expenses, including the costs of non-  
24 structural repairs and replacement of noninsured contents  
25 and inventory.

26 “(c) CONDITIONS.—

1           “(1) NO RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.—A small  
2       business or agricultural enterprise receiving a grant  
3       under this section—

4           “(A) shall not use the proceeds of the  
5       grant for relocation; but

6           “(B) may use the proceeds of the grant for  
7       appropriate purposes in a new location, at the  
8       discretion of the President, for a safety, health,  
9       or mitigation purpose.

10       “(2) DUPLICATIVE ASSISTANCE.—

11           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A small business or  
12       agricultural enterprise receiving assistance in  
13       the form of a grant under this section shall be  
14       liable to the United States to the extent that  
15       the assistance duplicates benefits provided to  
16       the small business or agricultural enterprise for  
17       the same purpose by another Federal agency.

18           “(B) DEBT COLLECTION.—A Federal  
19       agency that provides any duplicative assistance  
20       described in subparagraph (A) shall collect an  
21       amount equal to the value of the duplicative as-  
22       sistance from the recipient in accordance with  
23       chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code, in  
24       any case in which the head of the agency con-

1           siders such collection to be in the best interest  
2           of the Federal Government.

3           “(C) INAPPLICABILITY OF DUPLICATION  
4           OF BENEFITS PROVISION.—Section 312 shall  
5           not apply to assistance provided under this sec-  
6           tion.

7           “(d) FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—

8           “(1) ONE MAJOR DISASTER ONLY.—A small  
9           business or agricultural enterprise shall be eligible  
10          for a grant under this section in relation to not more  
11          than 1 major disaster.

12          “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The max-  
13          imum amount that a small business or agricultural  
14          enterprise may receive under this section shall be  
15          \$20,000.

16          “(e) TIME PERIOD FOR MAKING GRANTS.—The  
17          President may make a grant under this section only dur-  
18          ing the 90-day period beginning on the date of declaration  
19          of a major disaster under this title.

20          “(f) REGULATIONS.—The President shall promulgate  
21          regulations to carry out this section, including criteria,  
22          standards, and procedures for the determination of eligi-  
23          bility for grants and the administration of grants under  
24          this section.

25          “(g) APPLICABILITY.—

1           “(1) DATE OF DISASTER.—This section shall  
2       apply to any major disaster declared after Sep-  
3       tember 1, 1999, and before the date of enactment of  
4       this section.

5           “(2) LIMITATION ON TIME PERIOD FOR MAKING  
6       GRANTS.—For the purpose of subsection (e), with  
7       respect to a major disaster described in paragraph  
8       (1), the 90-day period shall begin on the date of en-  
9       actment of this section.”.

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