

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4506

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide assistance for areas that experience a disaster that results in major damage to or destruction of 100 homes or fewer.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 3, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SHAW, and Mr. DEUTSCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide assistance for areas that experience a disaster that results in major damage to or destruction of 100 homes or fewer.

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 “Small Disaster Assist-
5 ance Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR DISASTERS AFFECTING 100**
2 **HOMES OR FEWER.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford
4 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
5 5170 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new section:

7 **“SEC. 425. ASSISTANCE FOR DISASTERS AFFECTING 100**
8 **HOMES OR FEWER.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), in the
10 case of an event that results in major damage to or de-
11 struction of 100 homes or fewer, the President may grant
12 the request of the Governor of the affected State for a
13 declaration that a major disaster exists under section 401,
14 notwithstanding the limited severity and magnitude of the
15 event, if the President determines that Federal assistance
16 under this title is necessary due to the existence of 1 or
17 more factors listed in subsection (b).

18 “(b) FACTORS.—In determining whether to grant the
19 request of the Governor of the affected State under sub-
20 section (a), the President shall consider whether the fol-
21 lowing factors exist in the immediate area of the event:

22 “(1) A large population of historically and eco-
23 nomically disadvantaged individuals.

24 “(2) A median family income level below the
25 national, State, or local average.

26 “(3) High unemployment.

1 “(4) A large population of uninsured home-
2 owners or renters.

3 “(5) A large elderly population.

4 “(6) A high concentration of damage.

5 “(7) A high level of trauma, including injuries,
6 deaths, disruption of community services, and emer-
7 gency needs.

8 “(c) LIMITATIONS ON RELIEF.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
10 total assistance provided under this title for a major
11 disaster declared under subsection (a) shall not ex-
12 ceed—

13 “(A) \$1,000,000 if the disaster results in
14 major damage to or destruction of between 1
15 and 50 homes; or

16 “(B) \$2,000,000 if the disaster results in
17 major damage to or destruction of between 51
18 and 100 homes.

19 “(2) LIMITATION.—Total assistance provided
20 under this title for a major disaster declared under
21 subsection (a) may exceed the limitation in para-
22 graph (1) if the President determines that—

23 “(A) continued disaster assistance is im-
24 mediately required;

1 “(B) there is a continuing and immediate
2 risk to lives, property, public health, or safety;
3 or

4 “(C) necessary assistance will not other-
5 wise be provided on a timely basis.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
7 subsection (a) shall apply to all disasters occurring on or
8 after August 1, 2003.

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