

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

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.

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 “FEMA Reform Act
5 of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAST FUNDING.**

7 Not later than 3 days after the Federal Emergency
8 Management Agency completes a preliminary damage as-
9 sessment for any State or local government, 50 percent

1 of the amount estimated for such assessment shall be re-
2 leased to the State or local government.

3 **SEC. 3. HAZARD MITIGATION.**

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

9 **SEC. 4. REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND REPLACEMENT OP-**
10 **TIONS.**

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

20 **SEC. 5. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE.**

21 The President may provide financial assistance under
22 section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
23 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) to repair per-
24 manent structures, including rental units, necessary for

1 temporary or transitional housing in the areas affected by
2 a major disaster.

3 **SEC. 6. DISASTER RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY PER-**
4 **SONNEL OPTIONS.**

5 For any major disaster that requires employees from
6 the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be avail-
7 able for an extended period of time in a major disaster
8 area to assist individuals with public assistance applica-
9 tions, the Agency shall establish a recruiting and training
10 office in such area as soon as possible to facilitate the hir-
11 ing of local individuals to assist with such applications.

12 **SEC. 7. UTILITIES.**

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

21 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

22 For purposes of this Act, the terms “local govern-
23 ment, major disaster, and State” have the same meanings
24 given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford

- 1 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
- 2 5122).

