I

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3347

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to report on the disaster assistance obligations of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2013

Mr. ROTHFUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

---

A BILL

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to report on the disaster assistance obligations of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Disaster Assistance Transparency and Accountability Act of 2013'' or the ''DATA Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. DISASTER ASSISTANCE REPORTS.

(a) DISASTER ASSISTANCE SPENDING REPORT.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report that specifies—

(A) for each of the 10 fiscal years most recently concluded before submission of the report, the amount obligated by the Federal Government for disaster assistance, including the amount obligated for disaster assistance—

(i) by each Federal department or agency that made an obligation relating to disaster assistance; and

(ii) under each relevant program, project, or activity of such department or agency; and

(B) for the fiscal year in which the report is submitted, the amount projected to be obligated by the Federal Government for disaster assistance, including the amount projected to be obligated for disaster assistance—

(i) by each Federal department or agency that has made or may make an obligation relating to disaster assistance; and

(ii) under each relevant program, project, or activity of such department or agency.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each year in conjunction with the President's annual budget submission to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report that specifies—

(A) for the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted, the amount projected to be obligated for disaster assistance by—

(i) each Federal department or agency that may make an obligation relating to disaster assistance; and

(ii) each relevant program, project, or activity of such department or agency;

(B) for the fiscal year in which the budget is submitted, the amount projected to be obligated for disaster assistance by—

(i) each Federal department or agency that has made or may make an obligation relating to disaster assistance; and

(ii) each relevant program, project, or activity of such department or agency;

(C) for the most-recently concluded fiscal year, the amount obligated for disaster assistance by—

(i) each Federal department or agency that made an obligation relating to disaster assistance; and

(ii) each relevant program, project, or activity of such department or agency; and

(D) any corrections to reports previously submitted under this subsection.

(b) BIENNIAL REPORT EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE SPENDING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the report under subsection (a)(1) is submitted, and every 2 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget of the Senate a report that provides—

(1) an evaluation of Federal disaster assistance spending, including the identification of areas of potential duplication, waste, fraud, or abuse;

(2) recommendations on how Federal departments and agencies can improve transparency in and better account for disaster assistance spending to

ensure that funds are spent in an effective and efficient manner; and

(3) an evaluation of the effectiveness and equity of the current system of cost-sharing with respect to disaster assistance spending, including the system's effectiveness in reducing the Federal cost of disaster assistance and promoting non-Federal investment in disaster recovery, mitigation, and preparedness.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) DISASTER.—The term ''disaster'' means any natural, accidental, or manmade catastrophe in any part of the United States, including a territory or possession of the United States, which causes, or which may cause, substantial damage or injury, without regard to whether such catastrophe results in a declaration of a major disaster or emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(2) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—The term ''disaster assistance'' means any Federal activity, including the provision of financial assistance, carried out to assist a public or private entity affected by the occurrence of a disaster.

○