

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4288

To establish a multi-agency Federal team to improve and reform Federal disaster assistance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2015

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish a multi-agency Federal team to improve and reform Federal disaster assistance.

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 Help and Edu-
5 cation for Local Partners Act (FEMA HELP Act)”.

6 **SEC. 2. MULTI-AGENCY FEDERAL DISASTER TEAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
9 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall establish
10 and convene a multi-agency Federal disaster assistance

1 team to work and coordinate with State, local, tribal, and
2 territorial leaders to develop a comprehensive approach to
3 disaster recovery by using a full range of Federal program
4 funding resources through collaboration between the Fed-
5 eral agencies referred to in subsection (b), including
6 through program requirements, release of funds, and
7 multi-agency funding opportunities.

8 (b) TEAM MEMBERS.—The multi-agency Federal
9 team referred to in subsection (a) shall be composed of
10 representatives of the Federal Emergency Management
11 Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-
12 ment, the Federal Highway Administration, the Small
13 Business Administration, the Federal Transit Administra-
14 tion, the Department of Defense, and the Army Corps of
15 Engineers, and State, local, tribal, and territorial govern-
16 ments and any other agency the Federal Emergency Man-
17 agement Agency Administrator thinks appropriate.

18 (c) COORDINATING OFFICERS.—Not later than 60
19 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
20 trator shall ensure that every coordinating officer of the
21 Federal Emergency Management Agency is trained in a
22 range of applicable disaster recovery funding programs
23 across the team members.

24 (d) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the

1 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall establish
2 and publish guidelines and criteria for making and com-
3 municating decisions regarding funding eligibility and re-
4 quirements for disaster recovery personnel across the team
5 members.

6 (e) STAFF TRANSITIONS.—To the extent practicable,
7 the Federal team shall minimize staff transitions and en-
8 sure that there is adequate information transfer if staff
9 transitions do occur.

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