

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1183

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve mitigation assistance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. POLIS, Mr. COOK, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. SINEMA) 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 improve mitigation 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 “Wildfire Prevention
5 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 420 of the Robert T.
8 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 5187) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
2 section (e); and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(d) HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.—Whether
6 or not a major disaster is declared, the President may pro-
7 vide hazard mitigation assistance in accordance with sec-
8 tion 404 in any area affected by a fire for which assistance
9 was provided under this section.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Robert T.
11 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended—

13 (1) in section 404(a) (42 U.S.C. 5170c(a))—

14 (A) by inserting before the first period “,
15 or any area affected by a fire for which assist-
16 ance was provided under section 420”; and

17 (B) in the third sentence by inserting “or
18 event under section 420” after “major disaster”
19 each place it appears; and

20 (2) in section 322(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 5165(e)(1)),
21 by inserting “or event under section 420” after
22 “major disaster” each place it appears.

1 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

2 Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
3 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(f) USE OF ASSISTANCE.—Recipients of hazard
6 mitigation assistance provided under this section and sec-
7 tion 203 may use the assistance to conduct the following
8 activities to help reduce the risk of future damage, hard-
9 ship, loss, or suffering in any area affected by a wildfire,
10 including—

11 “(1) reseedling ground cover with quick-growing
12 or native species;

13 “(2) mulching with straw or chipped wood;

14 “(3) constructing straw, rock, or log dams in
15 small tributaries to prevent flooding;

16 “(4) placing logs and other erosion barriers to
17 catch sediment on hill slopes;

18 “(5) installing debris traps to modify road and
19 trail drainage mechanisms;

20 “(6) modifying or removing culverts to allow
21 drainage to flow freely;

22 “(7) adding drainage dips and constructing
23 emergency spillways to keep roads and bridges from
24 washing out during floods;

25 “(8) planting grass to prevent the spread of
26 noxious weeds;

1 “(9) installing warning signs;
2 “(10) establishing defensible space measures;
3 and
4 “(11) reducing hazardous fuels.”.

5 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
7 of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of
8 the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit
9 to the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
10 mental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Transpor-
11 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives,
12 and the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and the
13 House of Representatives a report containing a summary
14 of any projects carried out, and any funding provided to
15 those projects, under subsection (d) of section 420 of the
16 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
17 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187) (as amended by section
18 1(a)(2)).

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