

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1813

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide wildfire smoke mitigation assistance to States and units of local government, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12, 2019

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide wildfire smoke mitigation assistance to States and units of local government, and for other purposes.

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 “Smoke-Ready Commu-
5 nities Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. WILDFIRE SMOKE MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.**

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

5 **“SEC. 431. WILDFIRE SMOKE MITIGATION ASSISTANCE.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide as-
7 sistance, including grants, equipment, supplies, and per-
8 sonnel, to any eligible State, unit of local government, or
9 Indian Tribe for the mitigation, management, and control
10 of smoke caused by one or more wildfires.

11 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A State or local government with
12 jurisdiction of an area impacted by smoke caused by one
13 or more wildfires shall be eligible for assistance under this
14 section.

15 “(c) COORDINATION WITH STATE AND TRIBAL DE-
16 PARTMENTS.—In providing assistance under this section,
17 the President shall coordinate with State and Tribal de-
18 partments of health, forestry, and emergency manage-
19 ment.

20 “(d) ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE.—In providing assist-
21 ance under this section, the President may use the author-
22 ity provided under section 403, including providing N95
23 filtering facepiece respirators, mechanical air filters, port-
24 able air filters, or upgrading central heating, ventilating,
25 and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems for public buildings.

1 “(e) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The President
2 shall prescribe such rules and regulations as are necessary
3 to carry out this section.”.

4 **SEC. 3. SMOKE RESILIENT HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) DEFINITION.—In this section—

6 (1) the term “eligible entity” means—

7 (A) a State;

8 (B) an Indian Tribe;

9 (C) a homeowner;

10 (D) an individual or family renting a dwell-
11 ing unit or home; and

12 (E) an owner of a building with rental
13 dwelling units or of a home that is rented to an
14 individual or family; and

15 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
16 of Housing and Urban Development.

17 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
18 a program under which the Secretary shall provide grants
19 to eligible entities to increase the smoke resiliency of dwell-
20 ings owned or occupied by vulnerable persons and pay for
21 any associated increases in energy costs.

22 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities carried out using
23 grant funds may include—

24 (1) carrying out weatherization measures to
25 mitigate air infiltration;

1 (2) installing air filtration systems; and

2 (3) providing assistance for related energy costs
3 from the operation of those systems.

4 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
6 essary to carry out this section.

7 **SEC. 4. SMOKE RESILIENT BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

9 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
10 ministrator of the Small Business Administration;
11 and

12 (2) the term “small business concern” has the
13 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small
14 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

15 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall es-
16 tablish a program under which the Administrator shall
17 provide grants to owners of small business concerns to in-
18 crease the smoke resiliency of the business concern.

19 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities carried out using
20 grant funds may include—

21 (1) acquiring protective gear for employees; and

22 (2) upgrading the heating, ventilation, and air
23 cooling system of any building in which the small
24 business concern operates.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.

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