

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2796

To expedite disaster assistance to States, insular areas, units of general local government, and Indian tribes under a community development block grant disaster recovery program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BURR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To expedite disaster assistance to States, insular areas, units of general local government, and Indian tribes under a community development block grant disaster recovery program, 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 “Ensuring Disaster Re-
5 covery for Local Communities Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DIS-**
 2 **ASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Housing and Com-
 4 munity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)
 5 is amended—

6 (1) in section 104(b) (42 U.S.C. 5304(b)), by
 7 inserting “or 123” after “106” each place that term
 8 appears; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 123. CDBG-DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.**

11 “(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
 12 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

13 “(1) a State;

14 “(2) an insular area;

15 “(3) a unit of general local government; and

16 “(4) an Indian tribe.

17 “(b) AUTHORITY; USE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
 19 assistance under this section to eligible entities for
 20 necessary expenses for activities authorized under
 21 this title related to disaster relief, resiliency, long-
 22 term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and
 23 housing, mitigation, and economic revitalization in
 24 the most impacted and distressed areas resulting
 25 from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Rob-

ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

“(2) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide an appropriate amount of assistance to eligible entities outside an area described in paragraph (1) that receives displaced residents due to a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) for the purpose of carrying out eligible activities to provide housing to and meet other disaster recovery needs of those displaced residents.

“(3) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out eligible activities with assistance provided under this section, a grantee shall prioritize activities that address housing recovery needs and how to better recover from and withstand future disasters, prolong the life of housing and infrastructure, use cost-effective means of preventing harm to people and property, incorporate protective features, redundancies, energy savings, and other measures that will assure the continuation of critical services during future disasters.

“(c) TIMING.—

1 “(1) DEADLINES FOR ALLOCATION OF
2 AMOUNTS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2),
3 after the enactment of an appropriations Act making
4 funds available for assistance under this section, the
5 Secretary shall allocate for grantees, based on the
6 best available data—

7 “(A) not less than one-third of funds pro-
8 vided for assistance under this section, within
9 60 days of the date of enactment of that Act;
10 and

11 “(B) all remaining unallocated funds to be
12 awarded to grantees, within 180 days of such
13 date of enactment.

14 “(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF DEADLINES BASED
15 ON INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION.—The deadlines
16 under paragraph (1) for allocation of funds shall not
17 apply in the case of funds made available for assist-
18 ance under this section until sufficient information
19 has been made available to the Secretary to deter-
20 mine unmet recovery needs and make allocations in
21 accordance with those deadlines.

22 “(3) DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON APPLICA-
23 TION.—The Secretary, the Administrator of the
24 Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Ad-
25 ministrator of the Small Business Administration,

1 and the heads of other appropriate agencies shall de-
2 velop a common form—

3 “(A) for the purpose of applying for indi-
4 vidual disaster assistance from the Department
5 of Housing and Urban Development, the Fed-
6 eral Emergency Management Agency, or the
7 Small Business Administration; and

8 “(B) that can be used and shared by all
9 agencies providing individual disaster assistance
10 and by the grantees and subgrantees as nec-
11 essary.

12 “(d) PLAN FOR USE OF ASSISTANCE.—

13 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days
14 after the allocation pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(B)
15 of the funds made available by an appropriations
16 Act for assistance under this section, and before the
17 Secretary obligates any of such funds for a grantee,
18 the grantee shall submit a plan to the Secretary for
19 approval detailing the proposed use of all funds,
20 which shall include, at a minimum—

21 “(A) criteria for eligibility for each pro-
22 posed use of funds, including eligibility limits
23 on income and geography, and a description of
24 how the use of such funds will—

1 “(i) address unmet needs relating to
 2 disaster relief, resiliency, long-term recov-
 3 ery and restoration of infrastructure and
 4 housing, and mitigation and economic revi-
 5 talization in the most impacted and dis-
 6 tressed areas; and

7 “(ii) provide assistance to impacted
 8 households experiencing homelessness or at
 9 risk of homelessness;

10 “(B) identification of officials and offices
 11 responsible for administering such funds and
 12 identifying and recovering duplicative benefits;

13 “(C) an agreement to share data with Fed-
 14 eral agencies and other providers of disaster re-
 15 lief, which shall include information the grantee
 16 has regarding the matters described in subpara-
 17 graph (B); and

18 “(D) a plan to provide case management
 19 services to disaster-impacted residents in identi-
 20 fying, understanding, and accessing available
 21 Federal assistance.

22 “(2) PUBLIC CONSULTATION.—In developing
 23 the plan required under paragraph (1), a grantee
 24 shall, at a minimum—

1 “(A) consult with affected residents, stake-
2 holders, local governments, and public housing
3 authorities to assess needs;

4 “(B) publish the plan in accordance with
5 the requirements set forth by the Secretary, in-
6 cluding a requirement to prominently post the
7 plan on the website of the grantee for not less
8 than 14 days;

9 “(C) ensure equal access for individuals
10 with disabilities and individuals with limited
11 English proficiency; and

12 “(D) publish the plan in a manner that af-
13 fords residents, affected local governments, and
14 other interested parties a reasonable oppor-
15 tunity to examine the contents of the plan and
16 provide feedback.

17 “(3) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall, by regu-
18 lation, specify criteria for the approval of a plan sub-
19 mitted under paragraph (1), including approval of
20 substantial amendments to the plan.

21 “(4) DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall dis-
22 approve a plan or substantial amendment to a plan
23 submitted under paragraph (1) if a plan or substan-
24 tial amendment does not meet the approval criteria.

1 “(5) RESUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall per-
 2 mit a grantee to revise and resubmit a plan that the
 3 Secretary disapproves under paragraph (4).

4 “(6) TIMING.—The Secretary shall approve or
 5 disapprove a plan submitted under paragraph (1)
 6 not later than 90 days after the date on which the
 7 plan is submitted to the Secretary.

8 “(e) FINANCIAL CONTROLS.—

9 “(1) COMPLIANCE SYSTEM.—The Secretary
 10 shall develop and maintain a system to ensure that
 11 each grantee has in place—

12 “(A) proficient financial controls and pro-
 13 curement processes;

14 “(B) adequate procedures to ensure that
 15 amounts made available under this section pro-
 16 vide the broadest benefit possible to eligible
 17 families and individuals that are approved for
 18 assistance;

19 “(C) adequate procedures to—

20 “(i) ensure timely expenditure of
 21 funds; and

22 “(ii) detect and prevent waste, fraud,
 23 and abuse of funds; and

24 “(D) adequate procedures to ensure the
 25 grantee will maintain comprehensive and pub-

1 liely accessible websites that make available in-
 2 formation regarding all disaster recovery activi-
 3 ties assisted with such funds, which information
 4 shall include any resulting contract, agreement,
 5 or other disposition of requests for qualification
 6 of assistance or for procurement with such
 7 funds.

8 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—The procedures described
 9 in paragraph (1)(D) shall ensure that personally
 10 identifiable information regarding recipients of as-
 11 sistance provided from funds made available under
 12 this section shall not be made publicly available.

13 “(3) CERTIFICATION.—As a condition of mak-
 14 ing any grant, the Secretary shall certify in advance
 15 that the grantee has in place the processes and pro-
 16 cedures required under paragraph (1).

17 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—

18 “(1) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible enti-
 19 ty receiving a grant under this section—

20 “(A) may use not more than 5 percent of
 21 the amount of grant funds received for adminis-
 22 trative costs; and

23 “(B) shall document the use of funds for
 24 the purpose described in subparagraph (A) in

1 accordance with such requirements as the Sec-
2 retary shall establish.

3 “(2) HUD ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

4 “(A) LIMITATION.—Of any funds made
5 available for use under this section by any sin-
6 gle appropriations Act, the Secretary may use
7 0.5 percent of any such amount for necessary
8 costs, including information technology costs, of
9 administering and overseeing the obligation and
10 expenditure of amounts made available for use
11 under this section.

12 “(B) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Any amounts
13 made available for use in accordance with sub-
14 paragraph (A)—

15 “(i) shall be transferred to the ac-
16 count for ‘Program Office Salaries and Ex-
17 penses—Community Planning and Devel-
18 opment’ for the Department of Housing
19 and Urban Development;

20 “(ii) shall remain available until ex-
21 pended; and

22 “(iii) may be used for such adminis-
23 trative costs for administering any funds
24 appropriated to the Department of Hous-
25 ing and Urban Development for any dis-

1 aster and related purposes in any prior or
2 future Act making funds available for use
3 under this section, notwithstanding the dis-
4 aster for which such funds were appro-
5 priated.

6 “(3) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Of any funds
7 made available for use in accordance with paragraph
8 (2)(A), 10 percent shall be transferred to the Office
9 of the Inspector General of the Department of Hous-
10 ing and Urban Development for necessary costs of
11 audits, reviews, oversight, evaluation, and investiga-
12 tions relating to amounts made available for use
13 under this section.

14 “(4) CAPACITY BUILDING.—Of any funds made
15 available for use under this section, 2 percent may
16 be made available for capacity building and technical
17 assistance to support grantees and subgrantees re-
18 ceiving funds under this section.

19 “(g) PROCUREMENT PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES
20 FOR GRANTEES.—

21 “(1) GRANTEE PROCESSES AND PROCE-
22 DURES.—In procuring property or services to be
23 paid for in whole or in part with amounts from a
24 grant under this section, a grantee shall—

1 “(A) follow the procurement processes and
2 procedures of the grantee, but only if the Sec-
3 retary makes a determination that those proc-
4 esses and procedures comply with the require-
5 ments under paragraph (2); or

6 “(B) comply with such processes and pro-
7 cedures as the Secretary shall, by regulation,
8 establish for purposes of this section.

9 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements under
10 this paragraph with respect to the procurement
11 processes and procedures of a grantee are that the
12 processes and procedures shall—

13 “(A) provide for full and open competition
14 and require cost or price analysis;

15 “(B) include requirements for procurement
16 policies and procedures for subgrantees, based
17 on full and open competition;

18 “(C) specify methods of procurement and
19 their applicability, but not allow for cost-plus-a-
20 percentage-of cost or percentage-of-construc-
21 tion-cost methods of procurement;

22 “(D) include standards of conduct gov-
23 erning employees engaged in the award or ad-
24 ministration of contracts; and

1 “(E) ensure that all purchase orders and
2 contracts include any clauses required by statute or implementing regulation.

4 “(3) NONCOMPLIANCE.—In the case of a grantee for which the Secretary finds pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) that the procurement processes and procedures of the grantee do not comply with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

9 “(A) provide the grantee with specific written notice of the elements of noncompliance and the changes necessary to those processes and procedures to provide for compliance;

13 “(B) provide the grantee a reasonable period of time to come into compliance; and

15 “(C) during the period of time described in subparagraph (B), allow the grantee to proceed with procuring property and services paid for in whole or in part with amounts from a grant under this section in compliance with the procurement processes and procedures of the grantee, but only if the Secretary periodically affirmatively determines that the grantee is making a good faith effort to effectuate compliance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

1 “(h) TREATMENT OF CDBG ALLOCATIONS.—
2 Amounts made available for use under this section shall
3 not be considered relevant to the non-disaster formula al-
4 locations made pursuant to section 106.

5 “(i) WAIVERS.—

6 “(1) AUTHORITY.—Subject to the other provi-
7 sions of this section, in administering amounts made
8 available for use under this section, the Secretary
9 may waive, or specify alternative requirements for,
10 any provision of any statute or regulation that the
11 Secretary administers in connection with the obliga-
12 tion by the Secretary or the use by the recipient of
13 those funds (except for requirements related to fair
14 housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, flood
15 risk management, and the environment and except
16 for the requirements of this section), if the Secretary
17 makes a public finding that good cause exists for the
18 waiver or alternative requirement and the waiver or
19 alternative requirement would not be inconsistent
20 with the overall purpose of this title.

21 “(2) NOTICE AND PUBLICATION.—Any waiver
22 of or alternative requirement pursuant to paragraph
23 (1) shall not take effect before the expiration of the
24 15-day period beginning upon the publication of no-

1 tice in the Federal Register of such waiver or alter-
2 native requirement.

3 “(3) LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME USE.—A
4 waiver pursuant to paragraph (1) may not reduce
5 the percentage of funds that is required to be used
6 for activities that benefit persons of low- and mod-
7 erate-income to less than 70 percent of the total al-
8 location, unless the Secretary specifically finds that
9 there is compelling need to further reduce the per-
10 centage requirement and that funds are not nec-
11 essary to address the housing needs of low- and
12 moderate-income residents.

13 “(4) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not
14 waive any provision of this section pursuant to the
15 authority under paragraph (1).

16 “(j) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

17 “(1) ADOPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection
18 (k)(1), recipients of funds provided under this sec-
19 tion that use the funds to supplement Federal as-
20 sistance provided under section 402, 403, 404, 406,
21 407, 408(c)(4), 428, or 502 of the Robert T. Staf-
22 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
23 (42 U.S.C. 5170a, 5170b, 5170c, 5172, 5173,
24 5174(c)(4), 5189f, 5192) may adopt, without review
25 or public comment, any environmental review, ap-

1 proval, or permit performed by a Federal agency,
2 and that adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of
3 the recipient with respect to the environmental re-
4 view, approval, or permit under section 104(g)(1).

5 “(2) RELEASE OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding
6 section 104(g)(2), the Secretary may, upon receipt
7 of a request for release of funds and certification,
8 immediately approve the release of funds for an ac-
9 tivity or project assisted with amounts made avail-
10 able for use under this section if the recipient has
11 adopted an environmental review, approval, or per-
12 mit under paragraph (1) or the activity or project is
13 categorically excluded from review under the Na-
14 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
15 4321 et seq.).

16 “(k) PRE-CERTIFICATION FOR UNITS OF GENERAL
17 LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry
19 out a program under this subsection to provide for
20 units of general local government to pre-certify as el-
21 igible grantees for assistance under this section.

22 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for pre-
23 certification under the program under this sub-
24 section, a unit of general local government shall
25 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary the

1 capacity to comply with the requirements of this sec-
 2 tion.

3 “(3) APPROVAL OF PLANS.—

4 “(A) EXPEDITED APPROVAL PROCESSES.—

5 The Secretary shall establish and maintain
 6 processes for expediting approval of plans for
 7 units of general local government that are pre-
 8 certified under this subsection.

9 “(B) EFFECT OF PRE-CERTIFICATION.—

10 Pre-certification pursuant to this subsection
 11 shall not—

12 “(i) establish any entitlement to, or
 13 priority or preference for, allocation of
 14 funds made available under this section; or

15 “(ii) exempt any grantee from com-
 16 plying with any of the requirements under,
 17 or established pursuant to, subsection (c)
 18 or (d).

19 “(4) DURATION.—Pre-certification under the
 20 program under this subsection shall be effective for
 21 a term of 5 years.

22 “(l) DEPOSIT OF UNUSED AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If any amounts made avail-
 24 able for assistance under this section to grantees re-
 25 main unexpended upon the earlier of—

1 “(A) the date that the grantee of such
2 amounts notifies the Secretary that the grantee
3 has completed all activities identified in the
4 grantee’s plan for use of such amounts that was
5 approved by the Secretary in connection with
6 the grant;

7 “(B) recapture of funds from the grantee
8 or repayment of funds by the grantee; or

9 “(C) the expiration of the 10-year period
10 beginning upon the Secretary obligating such
11 amounts to the grantee, as such period may be
12 extended pursuant to paragraph (2),

13 the Secretary shall transfer such unexpended
14 amounts to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit
15 into the Community Development Block Grant Dis-
16 aster Recovery Reserve Fund established under sec-
17 tion 124, except that the Secretary may, by regula-
18 tion, permit the grantee to retain amounts needed to
19 close out the grant.

20 “(2) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR USE OF
21 FUNDS.—The period under paragraph (1)(C) shall
22 be extended by not more than 3 years if the Sec-
23 retary waives this requirement and submits a writ-
24 ten justification for the waiver to the Committees on
25 Appropriations of the House of Representatives and

1 the Senate that specifies the period of that exten-
2 sion.

3 “(m) THRESHOLDS AND REPORTING FOR DISASTER
4 RELIEF.—

5 “(1) DEFINITION OF COVERED GRANTEE.—In
6 this subsection, the term ‘covered grantee’ means a
7 grantee under this title that receives funds from an
8 appropriations Act to carry out the purposes of this
9 section to address the damage in an area for which
10 the President has declared a major disaster under
11 section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
12 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

13 “(2) SETTING THRESHOLDS.—The Secretary
14 shall establish and make publicly available spending
15 thresholds that a covered grantee shall be required—

16 “(A) to meet on the date that is 6 months
17 after the date on which funds have been obli-
18 gated by the covered grantee; and

19 “(B) to meet every 6 months thereafter
20 until all funds have been expended by the cov-
21 ered grantee.

22 “(3) FAILURE TO MEET THRESHOLDS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered grantee
24 that fails to meet the spending thresholds es-
25 tablished under paragraph (2) shall submit to

the Secretary, the appropriate committees of Congress, and each member of Congress who represents a district or State of the covered grantee a written report identifying technical capacity, funding, or other Federal or State impediments affecting the ability of the covered grantee to meet the spending thresholds.

“(B) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall make the report publicly available on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“(n) SUBGRANTEE ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon request, the Secretary may allow counties, municipalities, Indian tribes, or other local subdivisions with a demonstrated record of administering funds under this title to become a subgrantee of the covered grantee.

“(2) CAPACITY BUILDING.—A county, municipality, Indian tribe, or other local subdivision lacking a demonstrated record of administering funds under this title may request technical assistance and training, including by detailing a sufficient number of employees from the Department of Housing and

1 Urban Development, from the Secretary to work di-
2 rectly with the subgrantee in order to become an eli-
3 gible subgrantee for purposes of paragraph (1).

4 “(3) TRANSFER OF PLAN.—A subgrantee de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) may transfer and adopt a
6 community development plan described in section
7 104(m) that has been previously approved by the
8 Secretary.

9 “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon request
10 of a subgrantee described in paragraph (1), the Sec-
11 retary may provide additional technical assistance to
12 the subgrantee to assist the subgrantee in admin-
13 istering and expediting the delivery of funds, includ-
14 ing by detailing an employee of the Department of
15 Housing and Urban Development to work with the
16 subgrantee.

17 “(5) NOTICE.—A subgrantee described in para-
18 graph (1) shall notify the covered grantee of its in-
19 tent to become a subgrantee.

20 “(6) ASSUMING DUTIES OF SUBGRANTEE.—If a
21 subgrantee described in paragraph (1) fails to ex-
22 pend funds in a reasonable timeframe, the Secretary
23 or the covered grantee may assume the duties of the
24 subgrantee to administer recovery funding, provided

1 that the subgrantee is given adequate notice and an
2 opportunity to remedy the slow expenditure of funds.

3 “(7) COMMUNITY RECOVERY SUPPORT SYS-
4 TEMS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the request of any
6 covered grantee or any subgrantee described in
7 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall designate
8 and deploy community recovery support teams
9 to provide the technical assistance and capacity
10 building described in paragraph (2).

11 “(B) COMPOSITION.—Each community re-
12 covery support team deployed under subpara-
13 graph (A) shall consist of employees of the re-
14 gional offices of the Department of Housing
15 and Urban Development with expertise in dis-
16 aster relief assistance provided under this title.

17 “(C) TRAINING.—The Secretary may pro-
18 vide additional employee training as needed to
19 fulfill the requirements of this paragraph.

20 “(8) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pro-
21 mulgate regulations to carry out this subsection.

22 **“SEC. 124. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DIS-
23 ASTER RECOVERY RESERVE FUND.**

24 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
25 Treasury of the United States an account to be known

1 as the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Re-
 2 covery Reserve Fund (in this section referred to as the
 3 ‘Fund’).

4 “(b) AMOUNTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
 6 appropriated to the Fund such sums as may be nec-
 7 essary to carry out the activities authorized under
 8 this Act, to remain available until expended, except
 9 that not more than \$50,000,000 is authorized to be
 10 appropriated for the first fiscal year beginning after
 11 the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment
 12 of this section, and each fiscal year thereafter.

13 “(2) TRANSFER.—Amounts made available
 14 through section 106(c)(4) by actions taken under
 15 section 104(e) or 111 may be transferred to the
 16 Fund, to remain available until expended.

17 “(c) USE.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available
 18 only for providing assistance under section 123, but only
 19 to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts.”.

20 (b) REGULATIONS.—

21 (1) PROPOSED RULES.—Not later than 6
 22 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
 23 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
 24 shall issue proposed rules to carry out sections 123
 25 and 124 of the Housing and Community Develop-

1 ment Act of 1974, as added by the amendment
2 made by subsection (a) of this section, and shall pro-
3 vide a 90-day period for submission of public com-
4 ments on those proposed rules.

5 (2) FINAL RULES.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of Housing and Urban Development shall issue final
8 regulations to carry out sections 123 and 124 of the
9 Housing and Community Development Act of 1974,
10 as added by the amendment made by subsection (a)
11 of this section.

12 **SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.**

13 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
15 shall submit to Congress a report on the hazard mitigation
16 grant program authorized under section 404 of the Robert
17 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
18 (42 U.S.C. 5170c) (in this section referred to as the “pro-
19 gram”), which shall include—

20 (1) an assessment of the utilization of the pro-
21 gram for acquisition of flood-prone properties for
22 hazard mitigation, including an analysis of the aver-
23 age length of time between the initial disaster and
24 completion of the property acquisition;

1 (2) an assessment of the ability of the program
2 to reduce exposure of Federal funds in future nat-
3 ural disasters;

4 (3) an assessment of how funds are tracked and
5 monitored by the Federal Emergency Management
6 Agency;

7 (4) recommendations on how to streamline the
8 program to enhance resilience, expedite delivery of
9 funds to program recipients, and increase trans-
10 parency and accountability of the program; and

11 (5) an assessment of the potential to leverage
12 private industry expertise in expediting property ac-
13 quisitions.

14 **SEC. 4. HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICA-**
15 **TION APPROVALS.**

16 Section 404(c)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
17 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
18 5170c(c)(3)) is amended by inserting “not later than 60
19 days after the date on which the application is submitted”
20 before the period at the end.

○