

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2341

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to waive certain prohibitions on duplication of benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2025

Mr. ROUZER (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana) 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 waive certain prohibitions on duplication of benefits, 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 “Duplications of Bene-
5 fits Victims Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—

8 (1) AUTHORITY.—Section 312(b) of the Robert
9 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

1 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(b)) is amended by adding
2 at the end the following:

3 “(4) WAIVER OF GENERAL PROHIBITION.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may
5 waive the general prohibition provided in sub-
6 section (a) upon request of a Governor on be-
7 half of the State or on behalf of a person, busi-
8 ness concern, or any other entity suffering
9 losses as a result of a major disaster or emer-
10 gency, if the President finds such waiver is in
11 the public interest and will not result in waste,
12 fraud, or abuse. In making this decision, the
13 President may consider the following:

14 “(i) The recommendations of the Ad-
15 ministrator of the Federal Emergency
16 Management Agency made in consultation
17 with the Federal agency or agencies ad-
18 ministering the duplicative program.

19 “(ii) If a waiver is granted, the assist-
20 ance to be funded is cost effective.

21 “(iii) Equity and good conscience.

22 “(iv) Other matters of public policy
23 considered appropriate by the President.

24 “(B) GRANT OR DENIAL OF WAIVER.—A
25 request under subparagraph (A) shall be grant-

1 ed or denied not later than 45 days after sub-
2 mission of such request.

3 “(C) PROHIBITION ON DETERMINATION
4 THAT LOAN IS A DUPLICATION.—Notwith-
5 standing subsection (c), in carrying out sub-
6 paragraph (A), the President may not deter-
7 mine that a loan is a duplication of assistance,
8 provided that all Federal assistance is used to-
9 ward a loss suffered as a result of the major
10 disaster or emergency.

11 “(D) PROHIBITION ON INCOME THRESH-
12 OLD.—In carrying out this paragraph, no in-
13 come threshold may be applied to limit the eli-
14 gibility of a recipient from qualifying for a
15 waiver under this paragraph.

16 “(E) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph
17 shall apply to any major disaster or emergency
18 declared by the President under section 401 or
19 501, respectively, on or after January 1,
20 2016.”.

21 (2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—This sub-
22 section, including the amendment made by para-
23 graph (1), shall not be construed to apply to section
24 406 or 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief

1 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172,
2 5174).

3 (3) REPORT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
6 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
7 ment Agency, in coordination with other rel-
8 evant Federal agencies, shall submit to the con-
9 gressional committees of jurisdiction a report
10 conducted by all relevant Federal agencies to
11 improve the comprehensive delivery of disaster
12 assistance to individuals following a major dis-
13 aster or emergency declaration under the Rob-
14 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
15 Assistance Act.

16 (B) CONTENTS.—The report required
17 under subparagraph (A) shall include both ad-
18 ministrative actions taken, or planned to be
19 taken, by the agencies as well as legislative pro-
20 posals, where appropriate, of the following:

21 (i) Efforts to improve coordination be-
22 tween the Agency and other relevant Fed-
23 eral agencies when delivering disaster as-
24 sistance to individuals.

1 (ii) Clarify the sequence of delivery of
2 disaster assistance to individuals from the
3 Agency, and other relevant Federal agen-
4 cies.

5 (iii) Clarify the interpretation and im-
6 plementation of section 312 of the Robert
7 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
8 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155) when
9 providing disaster assistance to individuals,
10 including providing a common interpreta-
11 tion across the Agency, and other relevant
12 Federal agencies, of the definitions and re-
13 quirements under such section 312.

14 (iv) Increase the effectiveness of com-
15 munication to applicants for assistance
16 programs for individuals after a disaster
17 declaration, including the breadth of pro-
18 grams available and the potential impacts
19 of utilizing one program versus another.

20 (C) REPORT UPDATE.—Not later than 4
21 years after the date of enactment of this sub-
22 section, the Administrator, in coordination with
23 other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to
24 the congressional committees of jurisdiction an

- 1 update to the report required under subpara-
- 2 graph (A).

