

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2342

To establish alternate procedures for lump sum payments for certain covered small disasters, 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 establish alternate procedures for lump sum payments for certain covered small disasters, 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 “State-Managed Dis-
5 aster Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR COVERED SMALL**
7 **DISASTERS.**

8 The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
9 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended
10 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“TITLE VIII—ALTERNATIVE PRO-**
2 **CEDURES FOR COVERED**
3 **SMALL DISASTERS**

4 **“SEC. 801. ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR COVERED**
5 **SMALL DISASTERS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a State or the
7 governing body of an Indian tribal government for the
8 area in which a covered small disaster occurs may request
9 a lump sum payment of the estimated damages calculated
10 under subsection (b) for such disaster in lieu of any assist-
11 ance under the Public Assistance Program for such dis-
12 aster.

13 “(b) CALCULATION.—Notwithstanding the require-
14 ments of section 206.47(b) of title 44, Code of Federal
15 Regulations, a payment under subsection (a) shall be
16 equal to the amount that is 80 percent of the total esti-
17 mated cost of assistance under the Public Assistance Pro-
18 gram for a covered small disaster in the area of jurisdic-
19 tion of the State or Indian tribal government requesting
20 such payment.

21 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribal
23 government receiving a payment under this section
24 may not receive assistance under the Public Assist-
25 ance Program with respect to the covered small dis-

1 aster for which a payment was accepted under this
2 section.

3 “(2) FINAL PAYMENT.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A payment under this
5 section may not be increased or decreased based
6 on actual costs calculated for a covered small
7 disaster.

8 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding sub-
9 paragraph (A), the Administrator may adjust a
10 payment under this section in the event of un-
11 foreseen circumstances at no fault of the appli-
12 cant.

13 “(3) SELECTION OF OPTION.—A State or In-
14 dian tribal government may designate to the Federal
15 Emergency Management Agency on an annual basis
16 the interest of such State or Indian tribal govern-
17 ment in participating in the small disaster authority.

18 “(4) INDICATION.—A State or Indian tribal
19 government shall indicate at the time of the submis-
20 sion of a request for a major disaster declaration
21 that such State or Indian tribal government is re-
22 questing assistance for such incident under this sec-
23 tion.

1 “(5) TIMING REQUIREMENT.—The Adminis-
2 trator and the State or Indian tribal government
3 shall—

4 “(A) reach an agreement on the amount
5 under subsection (b) not later than 90 days
6 after the incident; or

7 “(B) administer the incident under the
8 procedures and authorities for the Public As-
9 sistance Program.

10 “(6) ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN.—To be eligible for
11 assistance under this section, a State or Indian trib-
12 al government shall have an approved administrative
13 plan in place at the time of the obligation of funds
14 provided under this section.

15 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or Indian tribal gov-
16 ernment receiving a payment under this section may use
17 such payment for recovery for the covered small disaster
18 in any manner determined appropriate by the respective
19 Governor or governing body of such State or Indian tribal
20 government if such funds—

21 “(1) address impacts and needs resulting from
22 the declared disaster incident;

23 “(2) are provided to State, Indian tribal govern-
24 ment, territorial and local government agencies, and

1 private non-profit entities eligible for Public Assist-
2 ance Program funding; and

3 “(3) are used in a manner that complies with
4 applicable environmental, historic preservation, and
5 civil rights laws (including the National Environ-
6 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)
7 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
8 (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.)) and any applicable re-
9 siliency standards under section 203.

10 “(e) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS AND REGULA-
11 TIONS.—A State or Indian tribal government shall be re-
12 sponsible for ensuring compliance under subsection (d)(3).

13 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion shall be construed to affect the eligibility of a State
15 or Indian tribal government for assistance under section
16 404.

17 “(g) REPORT TO FEMA.—A State or governing body
18 of an Indian tribal government shall submit to the Federal
19 Emergency Management Agency an annual report of ex-
20 penses for a covered small disaster in the area of jurisdic-
21 tion of the respective State or Indian tribal government.

22 “(h) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
23 be construed to affect any program in title IV or V that
24 is not a Public Assistance Program.

25 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) COVERED SMALL DISASTER.—The term
2 ‘covered small disaster’ means a major disaster de-
3 clared under section 401 or an emergency declared
4 under section 501 with estimated damage eligible
5 under the Public Assistance Program of less than or
6 equal to 125 percent of the State’s per capita indi-
7 cator.

8 “(2) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term
9 ‘Public Assistance Program’ means the programs
10 under sections 403, 406, 407, and 502.”.

○