

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3759

To provide for streamlined cost exemptions for public assistance projects by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2025

Mr. DUNN of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for streamlined cost exemptions for public assistance projects by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 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 “Streamlined FEMA
5 Cost Exemption Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RECOUPMENT OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE PROHIB-**
7 **ITED.**

8 Section 705(a)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
9 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.

1 5205(a)(1)) is amended by striking “3 years” and insert-
2 ing “2 years”.

3 **SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.**

4 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 312(b) of the Robert T.
5 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 5155(b)) is amended by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 “(4) **WAIVER OF GENERAL PROHIBITION.**—

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

19 “(i) The recommendations of the Ad-
20 ministrator of the Federal Emergency
21 Management Agency made in consultation
22 with the Federal agency or agencies ad-
23 ministering the duplicative program.

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

1 “(iii) Equity and good conscience.

2 “(iv) Other matters of public policy
3 considered appropriate by the President.

4 “(B) GRANT OR DENIAL OF WAIVER.—A
5 request under subparagraph (A) shall be grant-
6 ed or denied not later than 45 days after sub-
7 mission of such request.

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

16 (b) LIMITATION.—This subsection, including the
17 amendment made by subsection (a), shall not be construed
18 to apply to section 406 or 408 of the Robert T. Stafford
19 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
20 5172, 5174).

21 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
22 section (a) shall apply to any major disaster or emergency
23 declared by the President under section 401 or 501, re-
24 spectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

1 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191) on or
2 after the date of enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 4. WAIVER OF CERTAIN RECOUPMENT OF FUNDS.**

4 Title VII of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
5 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)
6 is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 707. WAIVER OF CERTAIN RECOUPMENT OF FUNDS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subchapter IV
9 of chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, the Adminis-
10 trator may waive recoupment of funds provided for a cov-
11 ered project that—

12 “(1) are otherwise eligible to be recouped by a
13 provision of this Act; and

14 “(2) that exceed the total cost of a covered
15 project by not greater than 5 percent.

16 “(b) COVERED PROJECT.—In this section, the term
17 ‘covered project’ means a project for which financial as-
18 sistance was provided under section 403, 406, 407, 428,
19 or 502.”.

20 **SEC. 5. ACCEPTABLE ERROR RATIO.**

21 Title VII of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
22 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)
23 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 708. ACCEPTABLE ERROR RATIO.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Notwithstanding subchapter
3 IV of chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, the Ad-
4 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
5 cy shall develop and establish an acceptable error ratio for
6 allocations during eligibility negotiations relating to finan-
7 cial assistance provided under this Act.

8 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Administrator shall en-
9 sure that any amount provided under this Act that the
10 Administrator considers to be within the error ratio estab-
11 lished under subsection (a) is used for an eligible purpose
12 for which the assistance is provided.”.

○