

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3957

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide certain fire management assistance to Indian Tribal Governments, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide certain fire management assistance to Indian Tribal Governments, 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. INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ELIGIBILITY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 420 of the Robert T.  
5 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
6 (42 U.S.C. 5187) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, Indian  
8 Tribal Government,” before “or local government”;

1           (2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e)  
2           as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

3           (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(b) PROCEDURE FOR REQUEST.—The Governor of  
6 a State or the Chief Executive of an Indian Tribal Govern-  
7 ment affected by a fire described in subsection (a) may  
8 directly submit a request to authorize assistance under  
9 this section.”; and

10           (4) by adding at the end the following:

11           “(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section  
12 shall prohibit an Indian Tribal Government from receiving  
13 assistance under this section pursuant to an authorization  
14 made at the request of a State under subsection (b) if  
15 assistance is not authorized under this section for the  
16 same incident based on a request by the Indian Tribal  
17 Government under subsection (b).”.

18           (b) REGULATIONS.—

19           (1) UPDATE.—Not later than 1 year after the  
20 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall  
21 issue regulations updating part 204 of title 44, Code  
22 of Federal Regulations, to carry out the amend-  
23 ments made by subsection (a).

24           (2) CONTENTS.—In issuing the regulations re-  
25 quired under paragraph (1), the President shall—

1 (A) authorize the Federal Emergency Man-  
2 agement Agency to directly receive a request for  
3 a fire management assistance declaration from  
4 an Indian Tribal Government and directly pro-  
5 vide related grants and resources to Indian  
6 Tribal Governments;

7 (B) clarify that Indian Tribal Governments  
8 for which the President does not grant a re-  
9 quest described in subparagraph (A) remain eli-  
10 gible to receive assistance under section 420 of  
11 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
12 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187)  
13 through assistance granted under a fire man-  
14 agement assistance declaration made at the re-  
15 quest of a State;

16 (C) consider the unique conditions that af-  
17 fect the general welfare of Indian Tribal Gov-  
18 ernments; and

19 (D) enter into government-to-government  
20 consultation with Indian Tribal Governments  
21 regarding the regulations.

22 (3) FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE DECLARA-  
23 TION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “fire  
24 management assistance declaration” means a dec-

1 laration approved under section 204.21(a) of title  
2 44, Code of Federal Regulations.

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