

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4480

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the President to designate a Veteran Advocate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2025

Mr. BARRETT 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 direct the President to designate a Veteran Advocate of 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 “Improving Disaster
5 Assistance for Veterans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF VETERANS ADVOCATE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford
8 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (15 U.S.C.

1 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **“SEC. 328. DESIGNATION OF VETERAN ADVOCATE.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate in
5 the Federal Emergency Management Agency a Veteran
6 Advocate.

7 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Veterans Advocate
8 shall be an advocate for the fair treatment of veterans in
9 the provision of assistance under this Act.

10 “(c) DUTIES.—The Veterans Advocate shall—

11 “(1) participate in the disaster declaration
12 process under section 401 and the emergency dec-
13 laration process under section 501 to ensure that the
14 needs of veterans are being addressed;

15 “(2) serve as the primary point of contact be-
16 tween veterans service organizations and the Federal
17 Emergency Management Agency;

18 “(3) identify opportunities for expanded veteran
19 recruitment for Federal Emergency Management
20 Agency employment, including Federal Emergency
21 Management Agency reservist positions; and

22 “(4) conduct such other activities as the Ad-
23 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management
24 Agency considers appropriate.”.

1 (b) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
2 section or the amendment made by this section shall be
3 construed to authorize major disaster or emergency assist-
4 ance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
5 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) that
6 is not authorized as of the date of enactment of this Act.

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