

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 744

To amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. EZELL, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. RASKIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects.

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 “Disaster Management
5 Costs Modernization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324 of the Robert T.
3 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 5165b) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

6 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
7 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
8 adjusting the margins accordingly; and

9 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as
10 so redesignated, by striking “provide the fol-
11 lowing percentage rates” and inserting “pro-
12 vide—

13 “(A) excess funds for management costs as
14 described in subsection (c); and

15 “(B) the following percentage rates”;

16 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
17 section (d); and

18 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(c) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT
21 COSTS.—

22 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
23 ‘excess funds for management costs’ means the dif-
24 ference between—

1 “(A) the amount of the applicable specific
2 management costs authorized under subsection
3 (b)(1) and subsection (b)(2)(B); and

4 “(B) as of the date on which the grant
5 award is closed, the amount of funding for
6 management costs activities expended by the
7 grantee or subgrantee receiving the financial as-
8 sistance for costs described in subparagraph
9 (A).

10 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR
11 MANAGEMENT COSTS.—The President may make
12 available to a grantee or subgrantee receiving finan-
13 cial assistance under section 403, 404, 406, 407, or
14 502 any excess funds for management costs.

15 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Excess funds for man-
16 agement costs made available to a grantee or sub-
17 grantee under paragraph (2) may be used for—

18 “(A) activities associated with building ca-
19 pacity to prepare for, recover from, or mitigate
20 the impacts of a major disaster or emergency
21 declared under section 401 or 501, respectively;
22 and

23 “(B) management costs associated with
24 any—

25 “(i) major disaster;

1 “(ii) emergency;

2 “(iii) disaster preparedness measure;

3 or

4 “(iv) mitigation activity or measure

5 authorized under section 203, 204, 205, or

6 404.

7 “(4) AVAILABILITY.—Excess funds for manage-
 8 ment costs made available to a grantee or sub-
 9 grantee under paragraph (2) shall remain available
 10 to the grantee or subgrantee until the date that is
 11 5 years after the date on which the excess funds for
 12 management costs are made available under para-
 13 graph (2).”.

14 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
 15 section (a) shall apply with respect to any grant award
 16 in relation to a major disaster or emergency declared
 17 under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T.
 18 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
 19 (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191)—

20 (1) the declaration of which is made on or after
 21 the date of enactment of this Act; and

22 (2) that is funded with amounts appropriated
 23 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

24 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the
 25 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General

1 of the United States shall submit to the Committee on
2 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
3 ate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
4 ture of the House of Representatives a report—

5 (1) on the actual management costs described
6 in section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
7 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
8 5165b) during the period of a major disaster dec-
9 laration under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
10 5170) to determine whether the amount set aside for
11 those management costs after the date of enactment
12 of this Act is appropriate; and

13 (2) that includes the management costs de-
14 scribed in section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
15 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
16 U.S.C. 5165b) for each disaster declared under dur-
17 ing the period of a major disaster declaration under
18 section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) during the
19 5-year period preceding the date of the report, the
20 amount set aside for those management costs, the
21 use of those management costs, the length of each
22 disaster, and the reason for the length of each dis-
23 aster.

1 (d) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amend-
3 ments made by subsection (a).

