

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2109

AN ACT

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an integrated plan to reduce administrative costs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Directing Dollars to
3 Disaster Relief Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act—

6 (1) the term “administrative cost”—

7 (A) means a cost incurred by the Agency
8 in support of the delivery of disaster assistance
9 for a major disaster; and

10 (B) does not include a cost incurred by a
11 grantee or subgrantee;

12 (2) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
13 ministrator of the Agency;

14 (3) the term “Agency” means the Federal
15 Emergency Management Agency;

16 (4) the term “direct administrative cost” means
17 a cost incurred by a grantee or subgrantee of a pro-
18 gram authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
19 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
20 5121 et seq.) that can be identified separately and
21 assigned to a specific project;

22 (5) the term “hazard mitigation program”
23 means the hazard mitigation grant program author-
24 ized under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford
25 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
26 U.S.C. 5170e);

1 (6) the term “individual assistance program”
2 means the individual assistance grant program au-
3 thorized under sections 408, 410, 415, 416, 426,
4 and 502(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
5 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174,
6 5177, 5182, 5183, 5189d, and 5192(a));

7 (7) the term “major disaster” means a major
8 disaster declared by the President under section 401
9 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
10 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

11 (8) the term “mission assignment” has the
12 meaning given the term in section 641 of the Post-
13 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of
14 2006 (6 U.S.C. 741); and

15 (9) the term “public assistance program”
16 means the public assistance grant program author-
17 ized under sections 403(a)(3), 406, 418, 419, 428,
18 and 502(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
19 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
20 5170b(a)(3), 5172, 5185, 5186, 5189f, and
21 5192(a)).

22 **SEC. 3. INTEGRATED PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COST RE-**
23 **DUCTION.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 365 days after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

1 (1) develop and implement an integrated plan
2 to control and reduce administrative costs for major
3 disasters, which shall include—

4 (A) steps the Agency will take to reduce
5 administrative costs;

6 (B) milestones needed for accomplishing
7 the reduction of administrative costs;

8 (C) strategic goals for the average annual
9 percentage of administrative costs of major dis-
10 asters for each fiscal year;

11 (D) the assignment of clear roles and re-
12 sponsibilities, including the designation of offi-
13 cials responsible for monitoring and measuring
14 performance; and

15 (E) a timetable for implementation;

16 (2) compare the costs and benefits of tracking
17 the administrative cost data for major disasters by
18 the public assistance, individual assistance, hazard
19 mitigation, and mission assignment programs, and if
20 feasible, track this information; and

21 (3) clarify Agency guidance and minimum docu-
22 mentation requirements for a direct administrative
23 cost claimed by a grantee or subgrantee of a public
24 assistance grant program.

1 (b) CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE.—Not later than 90
2 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
3 trator shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security
4 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
5 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
6 of Representatives on the plan required to be developed
7 under subsection (a)(1).

8 (c) UPDATES.—If the Administrator modifies the
9 plan or the timetable under subsection (a), the Adminis-
10 trator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Secu-
11 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
12 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
13 of Representatives a report notifying Congress of the
14 modification, which shall include the details of the modi-
15 fication.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

17 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than November 30
18 of each year for 7 years beginning on the date of enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Com-
20 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
21 of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and
22 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report
23 on the development and implementation of the integrated
24 plan required under section 3 for the previous fiscal year.

25 (b) REPORT UPDATES.—

1 (1) THREE YEAR UPDATE.—Not later than 3
2 years after the date on which the Administrator sub-
3 mits a report under subsection (a), the Adminis-
4 trator shall submit an updated report for the pre-
5 vious 3-fiscal-year period.

6 (2) FIVE YEAR UPDATE.—Not later than 5
7 years after the date on which the Administrator sub-
8 mits a report under subsection (a), the Adminis-
9 trator shall submit an updated report for the pre-
10 vious 5-fiscal-year period.

11 (c) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—Each report required
12 under subsections (a) and (b) shall contain, at a min-
13 imum—

14 (1) the total amount spent on administrative
15 costs for the fiscal year period for which the report
16 is being submitted;

17 (2) the average annual percentage of adminis-
18 trative costs for the fiscal year period for which the
19 report is being submitted;

20 (3) an assessment of the effectiveness of the
21 plan developed under section 3(a)(1);

22 (4) an analysis of—

23 (A) whether the Agency is achieving the
24 strategic goals established under section
25 3(a)(1)(C); and

1 (B) in the case of the Agency not achieving
2 such strategic goals, what is preventing the
3 Agency from doing so;

4 (5) any actions the Agency has identified as
5 useful in improving upon and reaching the goals for
6 administrative costs established under section
7 3(a)(1)(C); and

8 (6) any data described in section 3(a)(2), if the
9 Agency determines it is feasible to track such data.

10 (d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30 days
11 after the date on which the Administrator submits a re-
12 port to Congress under this section, the Administrator
13 shall make the report publicly available on the website of
14 the Agency.

Passed the Senate February 9, 2016.

Attest:

Secretary.

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