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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020 relating to COVID-19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020 relating to COVID-19, 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 “FEMA Assistance Re-
3 lief Act of 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. COST SHARE.**

5 (a) TEMPORARY FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwith-
6 standing sections 403(b), 403(c)(4), 404(a), 406(b),
7 408(d), 408(g)(2), 428(e)(2)(B), and 503(a) of the Robert
8 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), for any emergency or major dis-
10 aster declared by the President under such Act during the
11 period beginning on January 1, 2020 and ending on De-
12 cember 31, 2020, the Federal share of assistance provided
13 under such sections shall be not less than 90 percent of
14 the eligible cost of such assistance.

15 (b) COST SHARE UNDER COVID EMERGENCY DEC-
16 LARATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), assistance
17 provided under the emergency declaration issued by the
18 President on March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 501(b)
19 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
20 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)), and under any subse-
21 quent major disaster declaration under section 401 of such
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes such emergency
23 declaration, shall be at a 100 percent Federal cost share.

24 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the emergency declared on
26 March 13, 2020 by the President under section 501 of

1 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
2 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191), the President may provide
3 assistance for activities, costs, and purchases of States or
4 local governments or the owners or operators of eligible
5 private nonprofits, including—

6 (1) activities eligible for assistance under sec-
7 tions 301, 415, 416, and 426 of the Robert T. Staf-
8 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 5141, 5182, 5183, 5189d);

10 (2) backfill costs for first responders and other
11 essential employees who are ill or quarantined;

12 (3) increased operating costs for essential gov-
13 ernment services due to such emergency, including
14 costs for implementing continuity plans, and shel-
15 tering or housing for first responders, emergency
16 managers, health providers and other essential em-
17 ployees;

18 (4) costs of providing guidance and information
19 to the public and for call centers to disseminate such
20 guidance and information;

21 (5) costs associated with establishing and oper-
22 ating virtual services;

23 (6) costs for establishing and operating remote
24 test sites;

1 (7) training provided specifically in anticipation
2 of or in response to the event on which such emer-
3 gency declaration is predicated;

4 (8) personal protective equipment and other
5 critical supplies and services for first responders and
6 other essential employees, including individuals
7 working in public schools, courthouses, and public
8 transit systems;

9 (9) medical equipment, regardless of whether
10 such equipment is used for emergency or inpatient
11 care;

12 (10) public health costs, including provision and
13 distribution of medicine and medical supplies;

14 (11) costs associated with maintaining alternate
15 care facilities or related facilities currently inactive
16 but related to future needs tied to the ongoing pan-
17 demic event; and

18 (12) costs of procuring and distributing food to
19 individuals affected by the pandemic through net-
20 works established by State, local, or Tribal govern-
21 ments, or other organizations, including restaurants
22 and farms, and for the purchase of food directly
23 from food producers and farmers.

24 (b) MAJOR DISASTER.—The activities described in
25 subsection (a) may also be eligible for assistance under

1 any major disaster declared by the President under section
2 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes the
3 emergency declaration described in such subsection.

4 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion shall be construed to make ineligible any assistance
6 that would otherwise be eligible under section 403 or 502
7 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5192).

8 (d) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
9 “State” has the meaning given the term in section 102
10 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
11 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).