

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4669
OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF MISSOURI**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Fixing Emergency Management for Americans Act of
4 2025” or the “FEMA Act of 2025”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

DIVISION A—ESTABLISHMENT OF FEMA AS CABINET-LEVEL
INDEPENDENT AGENCY

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Sec. 11. Establishment of independent agency.
Sec. 12. Administrator; Deputy Administrator; other officials of the Agency.
Sec. 13. Authority and responsibilities.
Sec. 14. Office of the Inspector General.
Sec. 15. Transfer of functions.
Sec. 16. Personnel and other transfers.
Sec. 17. Saving provisions.
Sec. 18. References.
Sec. 19. Federal Emergency Management Agency Working Capital Fund.
Sec. 20. Improving disaster assistance for veterans.
Sec. 20A. Unmanned aircraft response system.

TITLE II—OFFICES AND FUNCTIONS OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Sec. 21. National emergency management.

TITLE III—RELATED MATTERS

- Sec. 31. Changes to administrative documents.
- Sec. 32. Recommended legislation.

DIVISION B—FEMA REFORMS

TITLE I—PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REFORMS

- Sec. 101. Rebuilding public infrastructure.
- Sec. 102. Task force to address backlog of open declared disasters.
- Sec. 103. Disaster declaration damage thresholds.
- Sec. 104. Federal permitting improvement.
- Sec. 105. Unified Federal review.
- Sec. 106. Block grants for small disasters.
- Sec. 107. Common sense debris removal.
- Sec. 108. Disaster management costs modernization.
- Sec. 109. Streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments.
- Sec. 110. Reasonable incident periods.
- Sec. 111. Fire management assistance program policy.
- Sec. 112. Indian tribal government eligibility.
- Sec. 113. Strengthening closeouts for critical services.
- Sec. 114. Sheltering of emergency response personnel.
- Sec. 115. Emergency protective measures to fight flooding damage.
- Sec. 116. Fairness and accountability in appeals.
- Sec. 117. Expedited funding for emergency work.
- Sec. 118. Consistency in procurement practices.
- Sec. 119. Household pets and service animals.
- Sec. 120. Utilization of regional and local contracts to support response capacity.
- Sec. 121. Removing disincentives for State funding.
- Sec. 122. Loan interest payment relief.

TITLE II—INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE REFORMS

- Sec. 201. Information sharing for Federal agencies.
- Sec. 202. Universal application for individual assistance.
- Sec. 203. Clarifying duplication of benefits.
- Sec. 204. Crisis counseling and addiction in disasters.
- Sec. 205. Repair and rebuilding.
- Sec. 206. FEMA emergency home repair program.
- Sec. 207. Direct assistance.
- Sec. 208. Accurate information to disaster victims.
- Sec. 209. Improved notices for FEMA assistance.
- Sec. 210. Common sense displacement assistance for disaster victims.
- Sec. 211. State-managed housing authority.
- Sec. 212. Improved rental assistance.
- Sec. 213. Online guides for postdisaster assistance.
- Sec. 214. Clarifying sheltering assistance eligibility.
- Sec. 215. Access to lifesaving non-congregate sheltering.
- Sec. 216. Assistance for total loss.
- Sec. 217. Review of delivery of assistance to individuals with disabilities.

TITLE III—MITIGATION REFORMS

- Sec. 301. Preapproved project mitigation list.
- Sec. 302. Reducing disaster costs and protecting lives.
- Sec. 303. Resilient buildings and communities.

- Sec. 304. Strengthening hazard risk reduction.
- Sec. 305. Utility resiliency.
- Sec. 306. Additional amendments to hazard mitigation revolving loan fund.
- Sec. 307. Streamlined hazard mitigation application process.
- Sec. 308. Study and report on mitigation benefits.
- Sec. 309. Distressed and rural communities.

TITLE IV—TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Sec. 401. GAO review of FEMA transition.
- Sec. 402. Transparency and online accountability.
- Sec. 403. Prohibition on political discrimination.
- Sec. 404. Review of burdensome regulations and policies.
- Sec. 405. Report on assistance to individuals.
- Sec. 406. Individual assistance dashboard.
- Sec. 407. GAO report on preliminary damage assessments.
- Sec. 408. Improved rental assistance.
- Sec. 409. GAO assessment on identity theft and disaster fraud in disaster assistance programs.
- Sec. 410. GAO study on insurance utilization for public assistance-eligible facilities.
- Sec. 411. Study on wildfire management plans.
- Sec. 412. Effectiveness of local, State, territory, and Federal alerting systems.
- Sec. 413. GAO review of management costs.
- Sec. 414. Report on coordination of disaster assistance to individuals.
- Sec. 415. GAO review of cost savings associated with repair and rebuilding reforms.
- Sec. 416. Transparency for disaster declarations.
- Sec. 417. Fast-moving disasters working group.
- Sec. 418. Public assistance dashboard.
- Sec. 419. Improving disaster workforce retention.
- Sec. 420. Disaster preparedness and response related to livestock.
- Sec. 421. GAO review of water infrastructure disasters.

1 DIVISION A—ESTABLISHMENT 2 OF FEMA AS CABINET-LEVEL 3 INDEPENDENT AGENCY

4 TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT OF 5 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MAN- 6 AGEMENT AGENCY

7 SEC. 11. ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT AGENCY.

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Emergency Manage-
9 ment Agency is established as a cabinet-level independent
10 establishment in the executive branch.

1 (b) MISSION.—The primary mission of the Agency is
2 to reduce the loss of life and property of the Nation from
3 all hazards, including natural disasters and manmade dis-
4 asters, by leading and supporting the Nation in a com-
5 prehensive emergency management system of prepared-
6 ness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

7 (c) SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES.—In support of the primary
8 mission of the Agency, the Administrator of the Agency
9 shall—

10 (1) lead the Nation’s efforts to prepare for, re-
11 spond to, recover from, and mitigate against the risk
12 of natural disasters and manmade disasters, includ-
13 ing catastrophic incidents;

14 (2) to build a national system of emergency
15 management that can effectively and efficiently use
16 the full measure of the Nation’s resources to re-
17 spond to natural disasters and manmade disasters,
18 including catastrophic incidents, partner with—

19 (A) State, local, and Tribal governments;

20 (B) emergency response providers;

21 (C) other Federal agencies;

22 (D) the private sector; and

23 (E) nongovernmental organizations;

24 (3) develop a Federal response capability that,
25 when necessary and appropriate, can act effectively

1 and rapidly to deliver assistance essential to saving
2 lives or protecting or preserving property or public
3 health and safety in a natural disaster or manmade
4 disaster;

5 (4) integrate the emergency preparedness, re-
6 sponse, recovery, and mitigation responsibilities of
7 the Agency to confront effectively the challenges of
8 a natural disaster or manmade disaster;

9 (5) develop and maintain robust Regional Of-
10 fices, inclusive of regional disability integration spe-
11 cialists, that work with State, local, and Tribal gov-
12 ernments, emergency response providers, and other
13 appropriate entities to identify and address regional
14 priorities;

15 (6) provide funding, training, exercises, tech-
16 nical assistance, planning, and other assistance to
17 build the Tribal, local, State, regional, and national
18 capabilities (including communications capabilities)
19 necessary to respond to a natural disaster or man-
20 made disaster;

21 (7) develop and coordinate the implementation
22 of an all-hazards strategy for preparedness that
23 builds the common capabilities necessary to respond
24 to natural disasters and manmade disasters while
25 also building the unique capabilities necessary to re-

1 spond to specific types of incidents that pose the
2 greatest risk to our Nation;

3 (8) identify, integrate, and implement the needs
4 of children, including children within underserved
5 communities, individuals with disabilities, and other
6 at-risk populations with access and functional needs,
7 into activities to prepare for, respond to, recover
8 from, and mitigate against the risk of natural disas-
9 ters and other disasters, including catastrophic inci-
10 dents, including by appointing a technical expert,
11 who may consult with relevant outside organizations
12 and experts, as necessary, to coordinate such inte-
13 gration, as necessary; and

14 (9) develop and maintain any relevant research,
15 development, and testing activities in support of the
16 Agency’s missions, in coordination with other appro-
17 priate executive agencies to reduce duplication and
18 identify unmet needs.

19 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) CATASTROPHIC INCIDENT.—The term “cat-
21 astrophic incident” means any natural disaster, act
22 of terrorism, or other man-made disaster that re-
23 sults in extraordinary levels of casualties or damage
24 or disruption severely affecting the population (in-
25 cluding mass evacuations), infrastructure, environ-

1 ment, economy, national morale, or government
2 functions in an area.

3 (2) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term
4 “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given that
5 term in section 1016(e) of Public Law 107–56 (42
6 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

7 (3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term local gov-
8 ernment means—

9 (A) a county, municipality, city, town,
10 township, local public authority, school district,
11 special district, intrastate district, council of
12 governments (regardless of whether the council
13 of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit
14 corporation under State law), regional or inter-
15 state government entity, or agency or instru-
16 mentality of a local government;

17 (B) an Indian tribe or authorized tribal or-
18 ganization, or in Alaska a Native village or
19 Alaska Regional Native Corporation; and

20 (C) a rural community, unincorporated
21 town or village, or other public entity.

22 (4) RESOURCES.—The term “resources” means
23 personnel and major items of equipment, supplies,
24 and facilities available or potentially available for re-

1 sponding to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or
2 other manmade disaster.

3 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means any
4 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
5 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
6 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth
7 of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession
8 of the United States.

9 (6) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal
10 government” means the government of an Indian
11 tribe or authorized tribal organization, or in Alaska
12 a Native village or Alaska Regional Native Corpora-
13 tion.

14 (7) AT-RISK POPULATIONS WITH ACCESS AND
15 FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.—The term “at-risk popu-
16 lations with access and functional needs” means—

17 (A) the elderly, children, and individuals
18 with disabilities (including individuals with mo-
19 bility, communication, intellectual, and proc-
20 essing disabilities) for whom emergencies may
21 present unique access and functional needs,
22 such as maintaining independence, communica-
23 tion, transportation, supervision, and medical
24 care; and

1 (B) include individuals described in sub-
2 paragraph (A) who reside in institutionalized
3 settings.

4 **SEC. 12. ADMINISTRATOR; DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR;**
5 **OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE AGENCY.**

6 (a) ADMINISTRATOR.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Emergency
8 Management Agency shall be headed by an Adminis-
9 trator, who shall be appointed by the President, by
10 and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and
11 who shall report directly to the President.

12 (2) PRINCIPAL ADVISOR ON EMERGENCY MAN-
13 AGEMENT.—The Administrator is the principal advi-
14 sor to the President for all matters relating to emer-
15 gency management in the United States.

16 (3) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Administrator shall
17 be appointed from among individuals who have—

18 (A) a demonstrated ability in, and knowl-
19 edge of, emergency management; and

20 (B) not less than 5 years of executive lead-
21 ership and management experience in the public
22 or private sector.

23 (4) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.—Title 5, United
24 States Code, is amended—

1 (A) in section 5312, by adding at the end
2 the following:

3 “Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-
4 agement Agency.”; and

5 (B) in section 5313, by striking the item
6 relating to “Administrator of the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency.”.

8 (b) DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Agency shall have one
10 Deputy Administrator, who shall be appointed by
11 the President, by and with the advice and consent
12 of the Senate. The Deputy Administrator shall carry
13 out duties and powers prescribed by the Adminis-
14 trator and act for the Administrator when the Ad-
15 ministrator is absent or unable to serve or when the
16 position of the Administrator is vacant.

17 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Deputy Adminis-
18 trator shall be appointed from among individuals
19 who have extensive experience in emergency pre-
20 paredness, response, recovery, and mitigating haz-
21 ards.

22 (3) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.—Section 5314 of
23 title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking
24 the item relating to “Deputy Administrators, Fed-

1 eral Emergency Management Agency.” and inserting
2 the following:

3 “Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Manage-
4 ment Agency.”.

5 (c) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATORS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Agency shall have one
7 or more Assistant Administrators, who shall be ap-
8 pointed by the Administrator, and whose duties shall
9 be determined by the Administrator.

10 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each Assistant Admin-
11 istrator shall be appointed from among individuals
12 who have a demonstrated ability in and knowledge
13 of emergency management or other field relevant to
14 their position.

15 **SEC. 13. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
17 Emergency Management Agency shall provide Federal
18 leadership necessary to prepare for, respond to, recover
19 from, or mitigate against all disasters, including natural
20 or manmade, including—

21 (1) helping to ensure the effectiveness of emer-
22 gency response providers to major disasters (as that
23 term is defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Staf-
24 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
25 (42 U.S.C. 5122) and other emergencies;

1 (2) with respect to the Nuclear Incident Re-
2 sponse Team—

3 (A) establishing standards and certifying
4 when such standards have been met; and

5 (B) conducting joint and other exercises
6 and training and evaluating performance;

7 (3) providing the Federal Government's re-
8 sponse to all disasters, including—

9 (A) managing such response;

10 (B) directing the Domestic Emergency
11 Support Team and the Nuclear Incident Re-
12 sponse Team;

13 (C) overseeing the Metropolitan Medical
14 Response System; and

15 (D) coordinating other Federal response
16 resources, including requiring deployment of the
17 Strategic National Stockpile, in the event of a
18 disaster;

19 (4) aiding the recovery from a disaster;

20 (5) building a comprehensive national incident
21 management system with Federal, State, and local
22 government personnel, agencies, and authorities, to
23 respond to such attacks and disasters;

1 (6) consolidating existing Federal Government
2 emergency response plans into a single, coordinated
3 national response plan;

4 (7) helping ensure the acquisition of operable
5 and interoperable communications capabilities by
6 Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments and
7 emergency response providers;

8 (8) assisting the President in carrying out the
9 functions under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
10 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121
11 et seq.) and carrying out all functions and authori-
12 ties given to the Administrator under such Act;

13 (9) carrying out the mission of the Agency to
14 reduce the loss of life and property and prepare the
15 Nation for all hazards by leading and supporting the
16 Nation in a comprehensive emergency management
17 system of—

18 (A) mitigation, by taking sustained actions
19 to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to people
20 and property from hazards and their effects;

21 (B) preparedness, by planning, training,
22 and building the emergency management pro-
23 fession to prepare effectively for, mitigate
24 against, respond to, and recover from any haz-
25 ard;

1 (C) response, by conducting emergency op-
2 erations to save lives and property through po-
3 sitioning emergency equipment, personnel, and
4 supplies, through evacuating potential victims,
5 through providing food, water, shelter, and
6 medical care to those in need, and through re-
7 storing critical public services; and

8 (D) recovery, by rebuilding communities so
9 individuals, businesses, and governments can
10 function on their own, return to normal life,
11 and protect against future hazards;

12 (10) increasing efficiencies, by coordinating ef-
13 forts relating to preparedness, response, recovery,
14 and mitigation;

15 (11) helping to ensure the effectiveness of emer-
16 gency response providers in responding to all haz-
17 ards, including natural or man-made;

18 (12) supervising grant programs administered
19 by the Agency;

20 (13) administering and ensuring the implemen-
21 tation of the National Response Plan, including co-
22 ordinating and ensuring the readiness of each emer-
23 gency support function under the National Response
24 Plan;

1 (14) coordinating with the National Advisory
2 Council established under section 508 of the Home-
3 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 318);

4 (15) preparing and implementing the plans and
5 programs of the Federal Government for—

6 (A) continuity of operations;

7 (B) continuity of government; and

8 (C) continuity of plans;

9 (16) minimizing, to the extent practicable, over-
10 lapping planning and reporting requirements appli-
11 cable to State, local, and Tribal governments and
12 the private sector;

13 (17) maintaining and operating within the
14 Agency the National Response Coordination Center
15 or its successor;

16 (18) developing a national emergency manage-
17 ment system that is capable of preparing for, re-
18 sponding to, recovering from, and mitigating against
19 catastrophic incidents;

20 (19) assisting the President in carrying out the
21 functions under the national preparedness goal and
22 the national preparedness system and carrying out
23 all functions and authorities of the Administrator
24 under the national preparedness System;

1 (20) carrying out all authorities of the Federal
2 Emergency Management Agency; and

3 (21) otherwise carrying out the mission of the
4 Agency as described in section 11(b).

5 (b) ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH.—In carrying out the
6 responsibilities under this section, the Administrator shall
7 coordinate the implementation of an all-hazards strategy
8 that builds those common capabilities necessary to prepare
9 for, respond to, recover from, or mitigate against all-haz-
10 ards whether natural or manmade, while also building the
11 unique capabilities necessary to prepare for, respond to,
12 recover from, or mitigate against the risks of specific types
13 of incidents that pose the greatest risk to the Nation.

14 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) INTEROPERABLE.—The term “interoper-
16 able” has the meaning given the term “interoperable
17 communications” under section 7303(g)(1) of the
18 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act
19 of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(g)(1)).

20 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term local gov-
21 ernment means—

22 (A) a county, municipality, city, town,
23 township, local public authority, school district,
24 special district, intrastate district, council of
25 governments (regardless of whether the council

1 of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit
2 corporation under State law), regional or inter-
3 state government entity, or agency or instru-
4 mentality of a local government;

5 (B) an Indian tribe or authorized tribal or-
6 ganization, or in Alaska a Native village or
7 Alaska Regional Native Corporation; and

8 (C) a rural community, unincorporated
9 town or village, or other public entity.

10 (3) RESOURCES.—The term “resources” means
11 personnel and major items of equipment, supplies,
12 and facilities available or potentially available for re-
13 sponding to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or
14 other manmade disaster.

15 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means any
16 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
17 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
18 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth
19 of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession
20 of the United States.

21 (5) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal
22 government” means the government of an Indian
23 tribe or authorized tribal organization, or in Alaska
24 a Native village or Alaska Regional Native Corpora-
25 tion.

1 **SEC. 14. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

2 The Federal Emergency Management Agency shall
3 have an Office of the Inspector General, headed by an In-
4 spector General who shall be appointed by the President,
5 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in ac-
6 cordance with chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code.

7 **SEC. 15. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subsection
9 (c), there shall be transferred to the Administrator of the
10 Federal Emergency Management Agency the following:

11 (1) All functions of the Federal Emergency
12 Management Agency, as constituted on the day be-
13 fore the date of enactment of this Act, including
14 continuity of operations and continuity of Govern-
15 ment plans and programs.

16 (2) The functions relating to the Agency under
17 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
18 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and
19 other laws, including—

20 (A) the National Flood Insurance Act of
21 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.);

22 (B) the Earthquake Hazards Reduction
23 Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.);

24 (C) the National Dam Safety Program Act
25 (33 U.S.C. 467 et seq.);

1 (D) the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-
2 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.);

3 (E) Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 (5
4 U.S.C. App.);

5 (F) section 612 of the Security and Ac-
6 countability For Every Port Act of 2006 (6
7 U.S.C. 314a);

8 (G) title III of the McKinney-Vento Home-
9 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331 et seq.);

10 (H) the Department of Homeland Security
11 Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–
12 295);

13 (I) the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act,
14 2013 (Public Law 113–2);

15 (J) the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018
16 (Public Law 115–254);

17 (K) the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018
18 (Public Law 115–123);

19 (L) the Implementing Recommendations of
20 the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law
21 110–53); and

22 (M) any other relevant laws relating to the
23 Agency.

24 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—There shall be trans-
25 ferred to the Inspector General of the Federal Emergency

1 Management Agency all of the functions relating to the
2 Inspector General that were transferred from the Federal
3 Emergency Management Agency to the Department of
4 Homeland Security on or after January 1, 2003.

5 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

6 (1) PROGRAMS UNAFFECTED.—The following
7 programs shall not be affected by this Act and shall
8 remain within the Department of Homeland Secu-
9 rity:

10 (A) The grant programs authorized by sec-
11 tions 1406, 1513, and 1532 of the Imple-
12 menting Recommendations of the 9/11 Commis-
13 sion Act (6 U.S.C. 1135, 1163, and 1182).

14 (B) The grant program authorized by sec-
15 tion 70107 of title 46, United States Code.

16 (C) Programs authorized in subtitle A of
17 title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
18 (6 U.S.C. 603 et seq.).

19 (2) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—With
20 respect to the programs under paragraph (1), the
21 Secretary of Homeland Security and the Adminis-
22 trator shall enter into a memorandum of under-
23 standing providing that—

1 (A) during the transition period under sub-
2 section (e), the Administrator shall continue to
3 administer such programs; and

4 (B) the Administrator may assess a fee on
5 the Secretary for the administration of such
6 programs and any additional programs, as con-
7 sidered necessary by the Administrator or the
8 Secretary.

9 (d) UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATOR; FED-
10 ERAL INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR.—Nothing in this Act
11 shall be construed to affect the appointment of the United
12 States Fire Administrator under section 5(b) of the Fire
13 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2204(b))
14 or the Federal Insurance Administrator under section
15 1105(a) of the Housing and Urban Development Act of
16 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4129).

17 (e) TRANSITION PERIOD.—The transfers under this
18 section shall be carried out not later than 1 year after
19 the date of enactment of this Act. During the transition
20 period, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide
21 to the Administrator such assistance, including the use of
22 personnel and assets, as the Administrator may request
23 in preparing for the transfer.

24 (f) TRANSITION.—The Administrator may use—

1 (1) the services of such officers, employees, and
2 other personnel of the Department of Homeland Se-
3 curity with respect to functions transferred by this
4 section; and

5 (2) funds appropriated to such functions for
6 such period of time as may reasonably be needed to
7 facilitate the orderly implementation of this section.

8 (g) LIAISON OFFICE TO ENSURE COORDINATION
9 WITH DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—The Ad-
10 ministrator shall establish a liaison office within the Agen-
11 cy to ensure adequate coordination with the Department
12 of Homeland Security.

13 **SEC. 16. PERSONNEL AND OTHER TRANSFERS.**

14 (a) PERSONNEL PROVISIONS.—

15 (1) APPOINTMENTS.—The Administrator of the
16 Federal Emergency Management Agency may ap-
17 point and fix the compensation of such officers and
18 employees, including investigators, attorneys, and
19 administrative law judges, as may be necessary to
20 carry out the respective functions transferred under
21 section 15. Except as otherwise provided by law,
22 such officers and employees shall be appointed in ac-
23 cordance with the civil service laws and their com-
24 pensation fixed in accordance with title 5, United
25 States Code.

1 (2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Admin-
2 istrator may obtain the services of experts and con-
3 sultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5,
4 United States Code, and compensate such experts
5 and consultants for each day (including travel time)
6 during which they are engaged in the actual per-
7 formance of such services at rates not in excess of
8 the rate of pay for level IV of the Executive Sched-
9 ule under section 5315 of such title. The Adminis-
10 trator may pay experts and consultants who are
11 serving away from their homes or regular place of
12 business, travel expenses and per diem in lieu of
13 subsistence at rates authorized by sections 5702 and
14 5703 of such title for persons in Government service
15 employed intermittently.

16 (b) DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—Except where
17 otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise pro-
18 vided by this division, the Administrator may delegate any
19 of the functions transferred to the Administrator by sec-
20 tion 15 and any function transferred or granted to the
21 Administrator after the date of the transfers by section
22 15 to such officers and employees of the Agency as the
23 Administrator may designate and may authorize succes-
24 sive redelegations of such functions as may be necessary
25 or appropriate. No delegation of functions by the Adminis-

1 trator under this subsection or under any other provision
2 of this division shall relieve the Administrator of responsi-
3 bility for the administration of such functions.

4 (c) REORGANIZATION.—The Administrator may allo-
5 cate or reallocate any function transferred under section
6 15 among the officers of the Agency, and may establish,
7 consolidate, alter, or discontinue such organizational enti-
8 ties in the Agency as may be necessary or appropriate if
9 the Administrator, on or before the 30th day preceding
10 the date of the allocation or reallocation, provides to Con-
11 gress written notice of the allocation or reallocation.

12 (d) RULES.—The Administrator may prescribe, in ac-
13 cordance with the provisions of chapters 5 and 6 of title
14 5, United States Code, such rules and regulations as the
15 Administrator determines necessary or appropriate to ad-
16 minister and manage the functions of the Agency.

17 (e) TRANSFER AND ALLOCATIONS OF APPROPRIA-
18 TIONS AND PERSONNEL.—Except as otherwise provided
19 in this division, the personnel employed in connection with,
20 and the assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records, and
21 unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, al-
22 locations, and other funds employed, used, held, arising
23 from, available to, or to be made available in connection
24 with the functions transferred by section 15, subject to
25 section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, shall be

1 transferred to the Agency. Unexpended funds transferred
2 pursuant to this subsection shall be used only for the pur-
3 poses for which the funds were originally authorized and
4 appropriated.

5 (f) INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.—The Director of the
6 Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with
7 the Administrator, may make such determinations as may
8 be necessary with regard to the functions transferred by
9 section 15, and may make such additional incidental dis-
10 positions of personnel, assets, liabilities, grants, contracts,
11 property, records, and unexpended balances of appropria-
12 tions, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held,
13 used, arising from, available to, or to be made available
14 in connection with such functions, as may be necessary
15 to carry out the provisions of this division. The Director
16 of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide for
17 the termination of the affairs of all entities terminated by
18 this division and for such further measures and disposi-
19 tions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of
20 this division.

21 (g) EFFECT ON PERSONNEL.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
23 vided by this division, the transfer pursuant to this
24 division of full-time personnel (except special Gov-
25 ernment employees) and part-time personnel holding

1 permanent positions shall not cause any such em-
2 ployee to be separated or reduced in grade or com-
3 pensation for one year after the date of transfer of
4 such employee under this division.

5 (2) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE POSITIONS.—Except
6 as otherwise provided in this division, any person
7 who, on the day preceding the date of the transfers
8 of functions under section 15, held a position com-
9 pensated in accordance with the Executive Schedule
10 prescribed in chapter 53 of title 5, United States
11 Code, and who, without a break in service, is ap-
12 pointed in the Agency to a position having duties
13 comparable to the duties performed immediately pre-
14 ceding such appointment shall continue to be com-
15 pensated in such new position at not less than the
16 rate provided for such previous position, for the du-
17 ration of the service of such person in such new po-
18 sition.

19 **SEC. 17. SAVING PROVISIONS.**

20 (a) CONTINUING EFFECT OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS.—
21 All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits,
22 agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, reg-
23 istrations, privileges, and other administrative actions—
24 (1) which have been issued, made, granted, or
25 allowed to become effective by the President, any

1 Federal agency or official thereof, or by a court of
2 competent jurisdiction, in the performance of func-
3 tions that are transferred under section 15; and

4 (2) which are in effect on the date of the trans-
5 fers of functions under section 15, or were final be-
6 fore such date and are to become effective on or
7 after such date, shall continue in effect according to
8 their terms until modified, terminated, superseded,
9 set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the
10 President, the Administrator, or other authorized of-
11 ficial, a court of competent jurisdiction, or by oper-
12 ation of law.

13 (b) PROCEEDINGS NOT AFFECTED.—The provisions
14 of this division shall not affect any proceedings, including
15 notices of proposed rulemaking, or any application for any
16 license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending
17 before the Agency on the date of the transfers of functions
18 under section 15, with respect to functions transferred by
19 section 15, but such proceedings and applications shall
20 continue. Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, ap-
21 peals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be
22 made pursuant to such orders, as if this division had not
23 been enacted, and orders issued in any such proceedings
24 shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, super-
25 seded, or revoked by a duly authorized official, by a court

1 of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law. Nothing
2 in this subsection shall be deemed to prohibit the dis-
3 continuance or modification of any such proceeding under
4 the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that
5 such proceeding could have been discontinued or modified
6 if this division had not been enacted.

7 (c) SUITS NOT AFFECTED.—The provisions of this
8 division shall not affect suits commenced before the date
9 of the transfers of functions under section 15, and in all
10 such suits, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and
11 judgments rendered in the same manner and with the
12 same effect as if this division had not been enacted.

13 (d) NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.—No suit, action,
14 or other proceeding commenced by or against the Agency,
15 or by or against any individual in the official capacity of
16 such individual as an officer of the Agency, shall abate
17 by reason of the enactment of this division.

18 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS RELATING TO PRO-
19 MULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—Any administrative ac-
20 tion relating to the preparation or promulgation of a regu-
21 lation by the Agency relating to a function transferred
22 under section 15 may be continued by the Agency with
23 the same effect as if this division had not been enacted.

1 **SEC. 18. REFERENCES.**

2 (a) REFERENCES TO FEMA.—Any reference to the
3 Federal Emergency Management Agency in any law, Ex-
4 ecutive order, rule, regulation, certificate, directive, in-
5 struction, delegation of authority, or other official paper
6 shall be considered to refer and apply to the Agency estab-
7 lished by section 11.

8 (b) REFERENCES TO ADMINISTRATOR OF FEMA.—
9 Any reference to the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
10 gency Management Agency in any law, Executive order,
11 rule, regulation, certificate, directive, instruction, delega-
12 tion of authority, or other official paper shall be consid-
13 ered to refer and apply to the Administrator established
14 by section 12(a)(1).

15 (c) REFERENCES TO INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Any
16 reference to the Inspector General of the Federal Emer-
17 gency Management Agency or to the functions relating to
18 such office that were transferred from the Federal Emer-
19 gency Management Agency to the Department of Home-
20 land Security on or after January 1, 2003, in any law,
21 Executive order, rule, regulation, certificate, directive, in-
22 struction, delegation of authority, or other official paper
23 shall be considered to refer and apply to the Inspector
24 General established by section 14 or to the functions re-
25 lated to the office of such Inspector General.

1 **SEC. 19. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**
2 **WORKING CAPITAL FUND.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in
4 the Treasury a revolving fund for the Federal Emergency
5 Management Agency for operation of any Federal Emer-
6 gency Management Agency headquarters, multi-discipline
7 facility to be known as the “Federal Emergency Manage-
8 ment Agency Working Capital Fund”.

9 (b) FEES FOR SERVICES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
11 Federal Emergency Management Agency may
12 charge a fee for services and equipment provided at
13 any Federal Emergency Management Agency head-
14 quarters, multi-discipline facility to the Department
15 of Homeland Security, other Federal agencies, and
16 other sources authorized by law, and shall deposit
17 such fees charged into the account of the revolving
18 fund established under this section.

19 (2) FEE AMOUNT.—The Administrator of the
20 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall set
21 the fee authorized under this subsection at rates
22 that will return in full all expenses of operation for
23 the facility or facilities, including accrued leave, de-
24 preciation of fund plant and equipment, amortiza-
25 tion of automated data processing software and sys-
26 tems (either acquired or donated), and an amount

1 necessary to maintain reasonable operating reserve
2 as determined by the Administrator.

3 (3) ADVANCE OF FUNDS.—Participants re-
4 questing services or equipment at the facility or fa-
5 cilities shall pay for such services and equipment by
6 advance of funds—

7 (A) if the Administrator determines that
8 amounts in the revolving fund are otherwise in-
9 sufficient to cover the costs of providing such
10 equipment and services; or

11 (B) upon agreement between the partici-
12 pants and the Administrator.

13 (c) CONTENTS OF FUND.—The revolving fund estab-
14 lished under this section shall consist of the following
15 amounts:

16 (1) Amounts deposited by the Administrator
17 under subsection (b).

18 (2) Any other amounts received by the Adminis-
19 trator which are attributable to the programs cov-
20 ered by the fund.

21 (3) Such other amounts as may be appropriated
22 under law.

23 (d) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts deposited into the
24 revolving fund established under this section shall be avail-
25 able for the necessary expenses of operating the facility

1 or facilities, including the provision of equipment and serv-
2 ices on a fee basis as authorized under subsection (b) and
3 shall remain available until expended.

4 (e) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS DURING TRANSITION.—Not-
5 withstanding section 506 of the Department of Homeland
6 Security Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108–90;
7 31 U.S.C. 501 note) (as extended by section 1101(a)(6)
8 of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Exten-
9 sions Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119–4) and any
10 subsequent law), there shall be transferred to the revolving
11 fund established under this section the assets, liabilities,
12 contracts, inventory, equipment, property, records, and
13 unexpended balance of appropriations and other funds
14 held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made avail-
15 able to the Department of Homeland Security Working
16 Capital Fund for the Federal Emergency Management
17 Agency. Unexpended funds transferred pursuant to this
18 paragraph shall be merged with the revolving fund and
19 shall be available as authorized by this section.

20 **SEC. 20. IMPROVING DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR VET-**
21 **ERANS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford
23 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (15 U.S.C.
24 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 328. DESIGNATION OF VETERANS ADVOCATE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate in
3 the Federal Emergency Management Agency a Veterans
4 Advocate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (b) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the
24 amendment made by this section shall be construed to au-
25 thorize major disaster or emergency assistance under the
26 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

1 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) that is not authorized
2 as of the date of enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 20A. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT RESPONSE SYSTEM.**

4 (a) FEMA UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM PRO-
5 GRAM.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
7 Management Agency, in coordination with the Adminis-
8 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall sub-
9 mit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
10 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
11 on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a plan
12 for the development and deployment of a program to use
13 unmanned aircraft systems owned and operated by the
14 Agency for purposes of—

- 15 (1) supporting disaster response and recovery;
16 and
17 (2) carrying out the mission of the Agency.

18 (b) USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—The
19 program described in subsection (a) shall be designed to
20 use unmanned aircraft systems for—

- 21 (1) search, rescue, and response;
22 (2) damage assessments; and
23 (3) such other disaster-related activities as de-
24 termined by the Administrator.

1 (c) PLAN.—The plan submitted under subsection (a)
2 shall include—

3 (1) a detailed description of the unmanned air-
4 craft system program, including the size, scope, and
5 number of unmanned aircraft systems to be deployed
6 under the program;

7 (2) actions to be taken to ensure effective pro-
8 curement, deployment, and use of unmanned aircraft
9 systems, including facilitating the safe and efficient
10 operation of unmanned aircraft systems beyond an
11 operator's visual line of sight in disaster areas;

12 (3) a description of plans to ensure coordination
13 with other relevant Federal agencies and public enti-
14 ties that may operate unmanned aircraft systems
15 during the response to disasters;

16 (4) timelines for implementation; and

17 (5) estimated costs, including a comparison to
18 costs associated with the Agency's use of mission as-
19 signments for other agencies carrying out similar ac-
20 tivities.

21 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date on which the plan is submitted under subsection
23 (a), the Administrator, in coordination with the Adminis-
24 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall imple-
25 ment such plan.

1 (d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 18 months after the
2 implementation of the plan, and annually thereafter, the
3 Agency shall provide to the Committee on Transportation
4 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
5 the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the
6 Senate a briefing on the implementation of the program
7 described in subsection (a), including—

8 (1) a description of each unmanned aircraft
9 system deployment under the program; and

10 (1) any efficiency or safety improvements nec-
11 essary for future unmanned aircraft systems use by
12 the Agency in disaster response efforts.

13 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion shall be construed to—

15 (1) confer upon the Administrator of the Fed-
16 eral Emergency Management Agency the authorities
17 of the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Admin-
18 istration; or

19 (2) restrict or limit the authority of the Admin-
20 istrator of the Federal Aviation Administration
21 under section 40103(b) of title 49, United States
22 Code, or chapter 448 of such title.

23 (e) DEFINITION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-
24 TEM.—In this section, the term “unmanned aircraft sys-

1 tem” has the meaning given the term in section 44801
2 of title 49, United States Code.

3 **TITLE II—OFFICES AND FUNC-**
4 **TIONS OF FEDERAL EMER-**
5 **GENCY MANAGEMENT AGEN-**
6 **CY**

7 **SEC. 21. NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

8 (a) OTHER OFFICERS.—Section 103(a)(1) of the
9 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113(a)(1)) is
10 amended—

11 (1) by striking subparagraph (D); and
12 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
13 through (K) as subparagraphs (D) through (J), re-
14 spectively.

15 (b) REPEALS.—Sections 503, 504, and 506 of the
16 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 316), and the
17 items relating to such sections in section 1(b) of such Act,
18 are repealed.

19 (c) REGIONAL OFFICES.—Section 507 of the Home-
20 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 317) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(A) by striking “and
22 homeland security”; and
23 (2) in subsection (f)(3) by striking “other than
24 the Department”.

1 (d) NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Section 508 of
2 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 318) is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by striking “Not later than 60 days
6 after the date of enactment of the Post-Katrina
7 Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006,
8 the Secretary shall establish” and inserting
9 “There is established”; and

10 (B) by striking “protection,”; and

11 (2) in subsection (b)(2) by striking “adminis-
12 tered by the Department”; and

13 (3) in subsection (c)(1)(D) by striking “protec-
14 tion,”;

15 (e) NATIONAL INTEGRATION CENTER.—Section
16 509(c)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
17 319(c)(1)) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “Secretary,
19 acting through the Administrator,” and inserting
20 “Administrator”; and

21 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i) by striking “, the
22 Homeland Security Council, and the Secretary under
23 section 503(c)(4)”.

1 (f) EVACUATION PLANS AND EXERCISES.—Section
2 512 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
3 321a) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a) by inserting “, in coordi-
5 nation with the Administrator,” after “may”; and

6 (2) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “Adminis-
7 trator” and inserting “Secretary”.

8 (g) DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 514 of the Home-
10 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321c) is
11 amended by striking “(a) DEPUTY” and all that fol-
12 lows through “The Administrator of the” and insert-
13 ing “The Administrator of the”.

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating
15 to section 514 in the table of contents in section
16 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
17 amended to read as follows:

“514. United States Fire Administration.”.

18 (h) NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER.—Section 515
19 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321d)
20 is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b) by striking “Department”
22 and inserting “Agency”; and

23 (2) in subsection (c) by striking “Secretary”
24 each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”.

1 (i) NUCLEAR INCIDENT RESPONSE.—Section 517 of
2 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321f)—

3 (1) by striking “Department” each place it ap-
4 pears and inserting “Agency”; and

5 (2) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) by striking “direction of the Sec-
7 retary” and inserting “direction of the Adminis-
8 trator”; and

9 (B) by striking “control of the Secretary”
10 and inserting “control of the Administrator”.

11 (j) CONDUCT OF CERTAIN PUBLIC HEALTH-RE-
12 LATED ACTIVITIES.—Section 518 of the Homeland Secu-
13 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321g) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “collaboration
15 with the Secretary” and inserting “collaboration
16 with the Administrator”; and

17 (2) in subsection (b) by striking “with the Sec-
18 retary” and inserting “with the Administrator”.

19 (k) USE OF NATIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORKS
20 IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE.—Section 519 of the Home-
21 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321h) is amended
22 by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Administrator”.

23 (l) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—

24 (1) PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY COUNTER-
25 MEASURES FOR STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE.—

1 Section 319F–2 of the Public Health Service Act
2 (42 U.S.C. 247d–6b) is amended—

3 (A) in subsection (a)(1) by striking “and
4 in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland
5 Security (referred to in this section as the
6 ‘Homeland Security Secretary’)” and inserting
7 “and in coordination with the Administrator of
8 the Federal Emergency Management Agency
9 (referred to in this section as the ‘Adminis-
10 trator’)”; and

11 (B) in subsection (c)—

12 (i) by striking “Homeland Security
13 Secretary” each place it appears and in-
14 serting “Administrator”; and

15 (ii) in paragraph (2)(C)—

16 (I) by striking “Secretary of
17 Homeland Security” and inserting
18 “Administrator”; and

19 (II) by inserting “, the Com-
20 mittee on Transportation and Infra-
21 structure,” after “Energy and Com-
22 merce”.

23 (2) IMPROVING STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC
24 HEALTH SECURITY.—Section 319C–1(f) of the Pub-

1 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–3a(f)) is
2 amended—

3 (A) in the heading by striking “HOME-
4 LAND SECURITY” and inserting “FEDERAL
5 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY”; and

6 (B) by striking “Secretary of Homeland
7 Security” and inserting “Administrator of the
8 Federal Emergency Management Agency”.

9 (3) PARTNERSHIPS FOR STATE AND REGIONAL
10 HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS TO IMPROVE SURGE CA-
11 PACITY.—Section 319C–2(d)(2)(B) of the Public
12 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–3b(d)(2)(B)) is
13 amended by inserting “and the Administrator of the
14 Federal Emergency Management Agency” after
15 “Homeland Security”.

16 (4) FACILITIES AND CAPACITIES OF THE CEN-
17 TERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—
18 Section 319D(c)(2)(B) of the Public Health Service
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–4(c)(2)(B)) is amended by in-
20 serting “the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
21 gency Management Agency,” after “Homeland Secu-
22 rity,”.

23 (5) EMERGENCY SYSTEM FOR ADVANCE REG-
24 ISTRATION OF VOLUNTEER HEALTH PROFES-

1 SIONAL.—Section 319I(f) of the Public Health Serv-
2 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–7b(f)) is amended—

3 (A) by striking “Secretary of Homeland
4 Security” and inserting “Administrator of the
5 Federal Emergency Management Agency”; and

6 (B) by striking “Department of Homeland
7 Security” and inserting “Federal Emergency
8 Management Agency”.

9 (m) GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Section
10 523 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
11 321l) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “the Adminis-
13 trator and the Director of the Cybersecurity and In-
14 frastructure Security Agency, in consultation with
15 the private sector” and inserting “the Adminis-
16 trator, in consultation with the Director of the Cy-
17 bersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and
18 the private sector”; and

19 (2) in subsection (b)(2) by striking “Secretary”
20 and inserting “Administrator”.

21 (n) VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SECTOR PREPAREDNESS
22 ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—Sec-
23 tion 524 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
24 321m) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a) by striking paragraphs (1)
2 through (3) and inserting the following: “The Ad-
3 ministrator shall establish and implement the vol-
4 untary private sector preparedness accreditation and
5 certification program in accordance with this sec-
6 tion.”; and

7 (2) in subsection (b) by striking “designated of-
8 ficer” each place it appears and inserting “Adminis-
9 trator”.

10 (o) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—Section 525 of the
11 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321n) is
12 amended—

13 (1) by striking “Secretary” each place it ap-
14 pears and inserting “Administrator”;

15 (2) in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b)
16 by striking “Department” and inserting “Agency”;
17 and

18 (3) in subsection (c)(1) by inserting “the Com-
19 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure and”
20 after “submit to”.

21 (p) NATIONAL PLANNING AND EDUCATION.—Section
22 527 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
23 321p) is amended by striking “Secretary” and inserting
24 “Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary,”.

1 (q) COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
2 SECURITY EFFORTS RELATED TO FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
3 AND VETERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.—Sec-
4 tion 528(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
5 U.S.C. 321q(c)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “Agriculture or” and inserting
7 “Agriculture,”; and

8 (2) by inserting “,or the Administrator” before
9 the period at the end.

10 (r) CONTINUITY OF THE ECONOMY PLAN.—Section
11 9603 of division A of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry
12 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021
13 (6 U.S.C. 622) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

15 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (H)
16 and (I) as subparagraphs (I) and (J); and

17 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (G)
18 the following:

19 “(H) the Administrator of the Federal
20 Emergency Management Agency,”; and

21 (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

22 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (S)
23 and (T) as subparagraphs (T) and (U); and

24 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (R)
25 the following

1 “(S) the Committee on Transportation and
2 Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
3 tives;”.

4 (s) JOINT TASK FORCES.—Section 708(b)(2)(B) of
5 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
6 348(b)(2)(B)) is amended—

7 (1) in clause (i)—

8 (A) by striking “including section
9 504(a)(3)(A),”; and

10 (B) in subclause (II) by striking “para-
11 graphs (3) and (4)(A) of section 503(c) and
12 section 509(c) of this Act,” and inserting “the
13 FEMA Act of 2025”; and

14 (2) in clause (ii) by striking “, including” and
15 all that follows through “section 506”.

16 **TITLE III—RELATED MATTERS**

17 **SEC. 31. CHANGES TO ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS.**

18 Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment
19 of this Act, the President shall amend Homeland Security
20 Presidential Directive–5, Presidential Policy Directive–8,
21 and any other similar administrative document to reflect
22 the changes made by this division and the amendments
23 made by this division.

1 **SEC. 32. RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—After consultation with Congress,
3 the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management
4 Agency shall prepare recommended legislation containing
5 additional technical and conforming amendments to reflect
6 the changes made by this division.

7 (b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90
8 days after the last day of the transition period referred
9 to in section 15(e), the Administrator shall submit to Con-
10 gress a report containing the recommended legislation.

11 **DIVISION B—FEMA REFORMS**
12 **TITLE I—PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**
13 **REFORMS**

14 **SEC. 101. REBUILDING PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford
16 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
17 5170 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 408
18 the following:

19 **“SEC. 409. EXPEDITED REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND RE-**
20 **PLACEMENT OF DAMAGED FACILITIES.**

21 “(a) GRANTS FOR REPAIR, RESTORATION, RECON-
22 STRUCTION, OR REPLACEMENT OF A PUBLIC FACILITY.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may make
24 grants—

25 “(A) to a State or local government for the
26 repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replace-

1 ment of a public facility damaged or destroyed
2 by a major disaster; and

3 “(B) subject to paragraph (2), to a person
4 that owns or operates a private nonprofit facil-
5 ity damaged or destroyed by a major disaster
6 for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or re-
7 placement of the facility.

8 “(2) CONDITIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE
9 NONPROFIT FACILITIES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may
11 make grants to a private nonprofit facility
12 under paragraph (1)(B) only if—

13 “(i) the facility provides critical serv-
14 ices (as defined by the President) in the
15 event of a major disaster; or

16 “(ii) the owner or operator of the fa-
17 cility—

18 “(I) has applied for a disaster
19 loan under section 7(b) of the Small
20 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

21 “(II)(aa) has been determined to
22 be ineligible for such a loan; or

23 “(bb) has obtained such a loan in
24 the maximum amount for which the

1 Small Business Administration deter-
2 mines the facility is eligible.

3 “(B) RELIGIOUS FACILITIES.—A church,
4 synagogue, mosque, temple, or other house of
5 worship, educational facility, or any other pri-
6 vate nonprofit facility shall be eligible for
7 grants under paragraph (1)(B), without regard
8 to the religious character of the facility or the
9 primary religious use of the facility. No house
10 of worship, educational facility, or any other
11 private nonprofit facility may be excluded from
12 receiving grants under paragraph (1)(B) be-
13 cause leadership or membership in the organi-
14 zation operating the house of worship is limited
15 to persons who share a religious faith or prac-
16 tice.

17 “(C) DEFINITION OF CRITICAL SERV-
18 ICES.—In this paragraph, the term ‘critical
19 services’ includes power, water (including water
20 provided by an irrigation organization or facil-
21 ity), sewer, wastewater treatment, communica-
22 tions (including broadcast and telecommuni-
23 cations), education, food and emergency supply
24 distribution, and emergency medical care.

1 “(3) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—The Presi-
2 dent shall notify the following committees not later
3 than 30 days after making any contribution under
4 this section in an amount greater than \$20,000,000:

5 “(A) The Committee on Homeland Secu-
6 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

7 “(B) The Committee on Transportation
8 and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
9 tives.

10 “(C) The Committee on Appropriations of
11 the Senate.

12 “(D) The Committee on Appropriations of
13 the House of Representatives.

14 “(b) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(1) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Grant funds
16 made to a State, local government, or a person that
17 owns or operates a private nonprofit facility under
18 this section may be used—

19 “(A) to repair, restore, reconstruct, or re-
20 place the public or private nonprofit facility
21 damaged or destroyed by a major disaster to
22 applicable building codes as of the time of re-
23 pair, restoration, reconstruction, or replace-
24 ment, including incorporating mitigation meas-

1 ures consistent with disaster risks for the geo-
2 graphical area;

3 “(B) to repair, restore, incorporate mitiga-
4 tion measures, or expand other selected public
5 facilities;

6 “(C) to construct new facilities;

7 “(D) and combined to construct a consoli-
8 dated facility or facilities of a State, local gov-
9 ernment, or owner or operator of a private non-
10 profit facility; or

11 “(E) to fund hazard mitigation measures
12 that the State or local government determines
13 necessary to meet a need for governmental serv-
14 ices and functions in the area affected by the
15 major disaster.

16 “(2) COST ESTIMATION.—

17 “(A) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The amount
18 of a grant made available pursuant to sub-
19 section (a) shall be determined, without regard
20 to preexisting condition, based on the estimated
21 cost to repair, restore, reconstruct, or replace
22 the public or private nonprofit facility damaged
23 or destroyed by a major disaster to applicable
24 building codes as of the time of repair, restora-

1 tion, reconstruction, or replacement. Such cost
2 estimate shall—

3 “(i) be developed by an appropriately
4 licensed professional;

5 “(ii) include the cost of incorporating
6 mitigation measures consistent with dis-
7 aster risks for the geographical area;

8 “(iii) include associated expenses in-
9 cluding labor costs, management costs,
10 materials, and any other costs to repair,
11 restore, reconstruct, or replace the im-
12 pacted facility; and

13 “(iv) include the cost of developing
14 such estimate.

15 “(B) PRESUMPTION OF ACCURACY.—The
16 cost estimate carried out under subparagraph
17 (A) shall be presumed to be accurate and rea-
18 sonable unless there is evidence of criminal
19 fraud.

20 “(3) SUBMISSION.—Upon submission by the
21 applicant of the cost estimate carried out under
22 paragraph (2), any review by the Administrator shall
23 be completed not later than 90 days after the receipt
24 of such estimate. In evaluating whether such cost es-
25 timation is accurate and reasonable, the Adminis-

1 trator may not consider preexisting condition and
2 the evaluation shall be conducted by an appro-
3 priately licensed professional with familiarity with
4 the relevant geographical location, including market
5 considerations and availability of labor and materials
6 for the applicable project. Unless there is evidence of
7 criminal fraud, such estimate shall be deemed to be
8 approved not later than 90 days after the submis-
9 sion of such estimate.

10 “(4) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Not later than
11 30 days after the approval of a cost estimate under
12 this subsection, the Administrator shall make the
13 grant funds available to the applicant.

14 “(5) ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT.—Not later than
15 2 years after such approval, the State, local govern-
16 ment, or person that owns or operates a private non-
17 profit facility may submit a revised cost estimate to
18 account for changes in labor, material, or other costs
19 associated with fluctuations in the market. Upon re-
20 ceipt of a revised cost estimate, the Administrator
21 shall review such revision in the same manner and
22 with the same time limitations as apply to the initial
23 cost estimate.

24 “(6) FINALITY OF APPROVALS.—Upon approval
25 of the grant or one-time adjustment, notwith-

1 standing any other provision of law, including sec-
2 tion 3716(e) of title 31, United States Code, unless
3 there is evidence of criminal fraud, no legal or ad-
4 ministrative action with respect to such approval or
5 adjustment, as applicable, to recover any payment
6 under this section shall be initiated in any forum.

7 “(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR LARGE, COMPLEX
8 PROJECTS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State, local govern-
10 ment, or owner or operator of a private non-
11 profit facility may, with the approval of the Ad-
12 ministrator, designate a large, complex infra-
13 structure project as a phased project.

14 “(B) SUBMISSION OF COST ESTIMATES.—
15 With respect to projects designated under sub-
16 paragraph (A), the respective applicant may
17 submit cost estimates for each phase designated
18 for such project.

19 “(C) APPROVALS.—The submissions for
20 each phase under subparagraph (B) shall be ap-
21 proved in the same manner and with the same
22 limitations as outlined in paragraphs (3)
23 through (5).

24 “(8) DEADLINE.—All cost estimates submitted
25 under this section shall be submitted not later than

1 5 years after the date of the respective major dis-
2 aster declaration under this title, unless the 5-year
3 period is extended by the President.

4 “(9) PROGRESS REPORTS.—

5 “(A) REPORTS.—A State, local govern-
6 ment, or owner or operator of a private non-
7 profit facility that receives funding under this
8 section shall, for each major disaster declared
9 for which funding was provided under this sec-
10 tion, submit an annual progress report to the
11 Administrator that includes—

12 “(i) a list with descriptions of projects
13 funded;

14 “(ii) a list and number of projects
15 permitted and commenced;

16 “(iii) a list of completed projects; and

17 “(iv) a list of remaining projects and
18 the status of such projects.

19 “(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Upon re-
20 ceipt of a report under this paragraph, the Ad-
21 ministrator shall make such report publicly
22 available on the website of the Federal Emer-
23 gency Management Agency.

24 “(10) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not
25 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of

1 this section and annually thereafter, the inspector
2 general of the Federal Emergency Management
3 Agency, established in section 14 of the FEMA Act
4 of 2025, shall conduct a review and submit to the
5 committees described in subsection (a)(3) a report
6 containing—

7 “(A) a sampling of cost estimates approved
8 in the prior year and assess their reasonable-
9 ness taking into account labor, material, and
10 market conditions in the relevant locality at the
11 time of the estimate;

12 “(B) information on whether the Adminis-
13 trator has placed any overly burdensome re-
14 quirements on the applicant in the submission
15 process, including whether or not the Adminis-
16 trator has failed to accept submissions based on
17 nonsubstantive or technical reasons; and

18 “(C) any evidence of criminal fraud and
19 whether there have been any referrals for fur-
20 ther investigation or prosecution.

21 “(11) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

22 “(A) APPLICABLE BUILDING CODES.—The
23 term ‘applicable building codes’ means the lat-
24 est 2 published editions of relevant consensus-
25 based codes, specifications, and standards, in-

1 including amendments made by State, local, In-
2 dian tribal, or territorial governments during
3 the adoption process that incorporate the latest
4 hazard-resistant designs and establish criteria
5 for design, construction, and maintenance for
6 the relevant project.

7 “(B) APPROPRIATELY LICENSED PROFES-
8 SIONAL.—The term ‘appropriately licensed pro-
9 fessional’ means an individual who is an engi-
10 neer, architect, builder, cost estimator,
11 tradesperson, or similar professional (or com-
12 binations thereof, as needed) that is licensed,
13 certified, or authorized to work in the relevant
14 State to perform the type of work related to
15 producing a cost estimate for the relevant
16 project described under this subsection.

17 “(c) FUNDING.—

18 “(1) MINIMUM FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as
19 provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of as-
20 sistance under this section shall be not less than 75
21 percent of the estimated cost of repair, restoration,
22 reconstruction, or replacement carried out under this
23 section.

24 “(2) REDUCED FEDERAL SHARE.—The Presi-
25 dent may reduce the Federal share of assistance

1 under this section to not less than 65 percent
2 through a sliding scale following an event associated
3 with a major disaster in which a State or Indian
4 tribal government has failed to implement appro-
5 priate mitigation measures to address the hazard
6 that caused the damage. Such mitigation measures
7 shall include—

8 “(A) establishing and maintaining State-
9 funded mitigation programs dedicated to invest-
10 ment in State and local mitigation projects for
11 public and private nonprofit facilities other than
12 projects carried out with Federal funds;

13 “(B) maintaining specified insurance on
14 the facilities subject to projects described under
15 subparagraph (A); and

16 “(C) employing qualified State and local
17 emergency management and personnel.

18 “(3) INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE.—

19 “(A) INCENTIVE MEASURES.—The Presi-
20 dent may provide incentives to a State or Tribal
21 government to invest in measures that increase
22 readiness for, and resilience from, a major dis-
23 aster by recognizing such investments through
24 a sliding scale that increases the minimum Fed-

1 eral share to 85 percent. Such measures shall
2 include—

3 “(i) establishing and maintaining a
4 dedicated disaster account;

5 “(ii) establishing and maintaining
6 State risk management programs with
7 dedicated funding for third-party insurance
8 policies, captive insurance, and actuarially
9 sound self-insurance risk pools that insure
10 public facilities against future disaster
11 risk;

12 “(iii) establishing and maintaining
13 other disaster programs managed and
14 funded by the State, including disaster as-
15 sistance to individuals;

16 “(iv) facilitating participation in the
17 community rating system;

18 “(v) granting tax incentives for
19 projects that reduce risk;

20 “(vi) facilitating the adoption and en-
21 forcement of 1 of the 2 latest editions of
22 relevant consensus-based codes, specifica-
23 tions, and standards, including amend-
24 ments made by State, local, Indian tribal,
25 or territorial governments during the adop-

tion process that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs and establish criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of residential structures and facilities that may be eligible for assistance under this Act for purposes of protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the buildings' users against disasters;

“(vii) establishing robust floodplain management standards;

“(viii) updating State risk assessments with future projections;

“(ix) integrating hazard mitigation planning into resource management plans;

“(x) incorporating multi-beneficial natural systems and nature based solutions in disaster resilience efforts;

“(xi) using nationally recognized emergency management standards to build emergency management capability and capacity through performance-based planning and coordination, including the Emergency Management Standard developed by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program;

1 “(xii) using non-Federal funding
2 sources to complete projects in the
3 preapproved project mitigation list ap-
4 proved under section 322(f); and

5 “(xiii) other measures to increase
6 readiness and resilience.

7 “(B) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this
8 paragraph prevents the President from increas-
9 ing the Federal cost share above 85 percent.

10 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making cost-share
11 determinations under this subsection, the President
12 shall consider—

13 “(A) whether a county, or county equiva-
14 lents, impacted by a disaster has done signifi-
15 cantly more to implement the resilience meas-
16 ures listed in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of
17 paragraph (2) and clauses (i) through (x) of
18 paragraph (3)(A); and

19 “(B) the total population and capacity of
20 each State to implement such measures.

21 “(5) COMBINED SOURCES OF FUNDING.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Grant funding re-
23 ceived under this section may be used in com-
24 bination with other Federal funding and private
25 sector funding.

1 “(B) CONFLICTING STANDARDS.—In any
2 case in which a building code or mitigation
3 standard is in conflict across Federal agencies
4 of a combined funding project described in sub-
5 paragraph (A), any codes or standards promul-
6 gated by the President, through the Adminis-
7 trator, pursuant to this Act shall be applied.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

9 (1) SUNSETS.—Section 406 of the Robert T.
10 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) is amended by adding at the
12 end the following:

13 “(f) OPTIONS.—A State, local government, or owner
14 or operator of a private nonprofit facility eligible for as-
15 sistance under this section for a project for which an appli-
16 cation has been submitted before the date of enactment
17 of this subsection may opt to receive a grant pursuant to
18 section 409 in lieu of contributions available under this
19 section.

20 “(g) SUNSET.—

21 “(1) LIMITATION ON APPLICATIONS.—No appli-
22 cation may be approved under this section if such
23 application is submitted on or after the date that is
24 180 days after the date of enactment of this sub-
25 section.

1 “(2) SUNSET OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES.—The
2 authorities under subsections (a) through (c) and
3 subsections (e) through (f) of this section shall ter-
4minate on December 31, 2032.”.

5 (2) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALTER-
6 NATIVE PROCEDURES.—Section 428 of the Robert
7 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
8 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189f) is amended—

9 (A) in subsection (b) by striking “406,”;

10 (B) in subsection (e)—

11 (i) by striking “The alternative proce-
12 dures” and all that follows through “and
13 502(a)(5)—” and inserting “For debris re-
14 moval under sections 403(a)(3)(A), 407,
15 and 502(a)(5), the President shall adopt
16 alternative procedures for—”;

17 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
18 (A) through (F) as paragraphs (1) through
19 (6), respectively, and adjusting the mar-
20 gins accordingly; and

21 (iii) in paragraph (6), as so redesign-
22 ated, by redesignating clauses (i) through
23 (iii) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), re-
24 spectively, and adjusting the margins ac-
25 cordingly; and

1 (C) by striking subsection (h).

2 (3) REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND REPLACEMENT
3 OF DAMAGED FACILITIES.—

4 (A) PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.—

5 Section 203(i) of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
6 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
7 U.S.C. 5133(i)) is amended by inserting “409,”
8 after “408,” each place it appears.

9 (B) INSURANCE.—Section 311 of the Rob-
10 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
11 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5154) is amended—

12 (i) in subsection (a)(1) by inserting
13 “or 409” after “section 406”;

14 (ii) in subsection (b) by inserting “or
15 409” after “section 406”; and

16 (iii) in subsection (c) by striking “sec-
17 tion 406 or 422” and inserting “section
18 406, 409, or 422” each place it appears.

19 (C) MANAGEMENT COSTS.—Section
20 324(b)(2)(B) of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
21 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
22 U.S.C. 5165b(b)(2)(B)) is amended by insert-
23 ing “409, 422,” after “407,”.

24 (D) SPECIFIED INSURANCE.—Section
25 406(d) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-

1 relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
2 5172(d)) is amended—

3 (i) in paragraph (1) by striking
4 “available under this section” and insert-
5 ing “available under this section or section
6 409”; and

7 (ii) in paragraph (2) by striking
8 “under this section” and inserting “under
9 this section or section 409”.

10 (E) SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE.—Section
11 422(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
12 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
13 5189(a)) is amended—

14 (i) in paragraph (1) by inserting “or
15 409” after “section 406”; and

16 (ii) in the matter following paragraph
17 (3) by striking “407, or 502” and insert-
18 ing “407, 409, or 502”.

19 (F) AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY.—Section
20 430 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
21 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
22 5189h) is amended—

23 (i) in subsection (a) by inserting “or
24 409” after “section 406”; and

1 (ii) in subsection (e)(1) by inserting
2 “409,” after “407,”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days
5 after the date of enactment of this Act.

6 (d) REGULATIONS.—

7 (1) APPLICATION.—Any regulations or policies
8 in effect on the date of enactment of this Act related
9 to Public Assistance or related assistance that con-
10 flict or are inconsistent with this section, including
11 subsections (i), (k), and (l) of section 206.201 of
12 title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, and section
13 206.202 of such title shall not apply to section 409
14 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
15 gency Assistance Act, as added by this section.

16 (2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
18 trator shall notify the Committee on Transportation
19 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
20 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
21 ernmental Affairs of the Senate of any regulations
22 in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that
23 the Administrator intends to apply to such section
24 409. Such notification shall include a justification

1 and specify the ambiguity the regulation is intended
2 to clarify.

3 (3) POLICIES.—Not later than 60 days after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
5 shall provide the Committee on Transportation and
6 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
7 the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
8 mental Affairs of the Senate any written policies and
9 procedures in effect on the date of enactment of this
10 Act that the Administration intends to apply to
11 carry out this section.

12 **SEC. 102. TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS BACKLOG OF OPEN DE-**
13 **CLARED DISASTERS.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the
15 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall establish a
16 declared disasters task force (in this section referred to
17 as the “Task Force”) to develop processes and mecha-
18 nisms necessary for the Administrator to eliminate the
19 current backlog of open declared disasters.

20 (b) COMPOSITION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force established
22 under subsection (a) shall include the following
23 members:

24 (A) The Administrator, who shall serve as
25 the chair of the Task Force.

1 (B) The Associate Administrator within
2 the Office of Response and Recovery.

3 (C) The Regional Administrator for Region
4 4.

5 (D) The Regional Administrator for Re-
6 gion 6.

7 (E) The Regional Administrator for Re-
8 gion 9.

9 (F) The Division Director for Public As-
10 sistance within the Office of Response and Re-
11 covery.

12 (G) Any other subject matter expert who is
13 employed by the Agency, as the Administrator
14 determines appropriate.

15 (2) DETAILEES.—Members of the Task Force
16 may detail employees who are employed by the
17 Agency to assist the Administrator in fulfilling the
18 duties of the Task Force.

19 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force established under sub-
20 section (a) shall—

21 (1) establish a temporary office within the
22 Agency to address open declared disasters;

23 (2) identify the barriers the Agency has experi-
24 enced in closing out the backlog;

1 (3) examine any challenges in reducing the
2 number of open declared disasters that are caused
3 by carrying out the program under section 205 of
4 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
5 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5135);

6 (4) make recommendations on how to expedite
7 the appeals of assistance denial process under sec-
8 tion 423 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
9 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189a);

10 (5) identify any barriers preventing the closeout
11 of the excessive backlog; and

12 (6) coordinate efforts with any processes imple-
13 mented by Agency to address the number of open
14 declared disasters, including the Backlog Adminis-
15 trative Closeout Process as outlined in the Public
16 Assistance Backlog Strategy Implementation Guid-
17 ance adopted June 2024.

18 (d) COMPLETION OF TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES.—

19 (1) SUBMISSION OF RESULTS.—Not later than
20 1 year after the establishment of the Task Force
21 under subsection (a), the Task Force shall submit to
22 the Administrator the results of the activities carried
23 out under subsection (c).

1 (2) SUNSET.—The Task Force established
2 under this section shall be terminated upon submis-
3 sion of the results pursuant to paragraph (1).

4 (e) BRIEFINGS.—

5 (1) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 180
6 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
7 ministrator shall brief the appropriate congressional
8 committees on the status of the Agency’s progress in
9 reducing the backlog and any other activities of the
10 Task Force.

11 (2) SEMIANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—The Adminis-
12 trator shall provide semiannual briefings to the ap-
13 propriate congressional committees until the Agency
14 closes out 800 declared disasters in its backlog.

15 (3) YEARLY.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-
17 after so long as any excessive open declared disas-
18 ters remain, the Administrator shall provide to the
19 appropriate congressional committees a briefing on
20 the Agency’s closeout of its excessive backlog. Such
21 briefing may be conducted concurrently with a semi-
22 annual briefing under paragraph (2).

23 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Transportation and
5 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

6 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
7 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

8 (C) the Committees on Appropriations of
9 the House of Representatives and the Senate.

10 (2) BACKLOG.—The term “backlog” means,
11 with respect to a declared disaster—

12 (A) the period of performance for the de-
13 clared disaster has concluded; and

14 (B) products and services carried out by
15 the Agency remain to be delivered.

16 (3) DECLARED DISASTERS.—The term “de-
17 clared disasters” means—

18 (A) any major disaster declared under sec-
19 tion 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
20 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
21 5170), including any grant program relating to
22 such a major disaster;

23 (B) any emergency declared under section
24 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
25 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.

1 5191), including any grant program relating to
2 such an emergency; and

3 (C) any assistance provided for fire man-
4 agement under section 420 of the Robert T.
5 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
6 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), including any grant
7 program relating to such fire management.

8 (4) EXCESSIVE BACKLOG.—The term “excessive
9 backlog” means any declared disaster that—

10 (A) is an open declared disaster; and

11 (B) the declaration of which occurred not
12 earlier than 10 years ago.

13 (g) CLOSEOUT REQUIREMENTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall di-
15 rect each Regional Administrator to close out a de-
16 clared disaster in the backlog or the excessive back-
17 log, and disperse the remaining fund balances, as
18 soon as is practicable after the date on which 90
19 percent of the costs expended for all approved
20 projects or awards relating to such declared disas-
21 ters are validated.

22 (2) AGREEMENTS.—A closeout described under
23 paragraph (1) shall include reaching an agreement
24 for projects or awards that are in active litigation,
25 as the Administrator considers appropriate.

1 (3) COST ESTIMATES.—The Administrator shall
2 close out a declared disaster described in paragraph
3 (1), notwithstanding section 3716(e) of title 31,
4 United States Code, based on cost estimates.

5 (h) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 2 years after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
7 of the United States shall conduct a review and submit
8 a report to Congress evaluating—

9 (1) the effectiveness of the activities of the
10 Task Force described in subsection (c); and

11 (2) the progress of the Administrator in reduc-
12 ing the excessive backlog.

13 **SEC. 103. DISASTER DECLARATION DAMAGE THRESHOLDS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—In making recommendations to
15 the President regarding the eligibility of a State impacted
16 by a major disaster declared under section 401 of the Rob-
17 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), the Administrator of the Federal
19 Emergency Management Agency shall use as a factor for
20 consideration whether the impacted counties, or subdivi-
21 sion therein, in such State—

22 (1) meet the eligibility criteria described in sec-
23 tion 301 of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
24 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161); or

1 (2) meet the definition of a rural area, as de-
2 fined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm
3 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

4 (b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.—In all cases
5 where assistance under section 409 of the Robert T. Staf-
6 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as
7 added by this Act, is authorized for a county, or a subdivi-
8 sion therein, that meets the eligibility criteria described
9 in section 301 of the Public Works and Economic Develop-
10 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161) or meets the defini-
11 tion of a rural area, as defined in section 343(a) of the
12 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
13 1991(a)), the President shall provide assistance under sec-
14 tion 408 of such Act.

15 (c) REVISIONS TO GUIDANCE, POLICIES, AND REGU-
16 LATIONS.—The Administrator shall take such actions as
17 are necessary to revise any policies, guidance, or regula-
18 tions of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to
19 implement subsections (a) and (b).

20 (d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
21 be construed to constrain the authority of the President
22 to make a determination of eligibility for assistance under
23 section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
24 Emergency Assistance Act, as added by this Act.

1 **SEC. 104. FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT.**

2 Section 316 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
3 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5159) is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 316. FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

7 “(1) PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT.—An ac-
8 tion which is taken or assistance which is provided
9 pursuant to section 402, 403, 406, 407, 409, or 502
10 shall not be deemed a major federal action signifi-
11 cantly affecting the quality of the human environ-
12 ment within the meaning of the National Environ-
13 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)
14 if the action has the effect of repairing, restoring,
15 reconstructing, or replacing a facility that is dam-
16 aged by a declared emergency or major disaster pur-
17 suant to section 401 or 501 to applicable building
18 codes at the time of repair, restoration, reconstruc-
19 tion, or replacement, including incorporating mitiga-
20 tion measures consistent with disaster risks for the
21 geographic area, provided that facility improvements
22 and mitigation activities occur in the same location
23 of the original facility.

24 “(2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
25 this section shall alter or affect the applicability of
26 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42

1 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to other Federal actions taken
2 under this Act or under any other provisions of law.

3 “(b) EXEMPTIONS AND EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—

4 “(1) STORMWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS.—A
5 general permit for stormwater discharges from con-
6 struction activities, if available, issued by the Ad-
7 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
8 or the director of a State program under section
9 402(p) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
10 (33 U.S.C. 1242(p)), as applicable, shall apply to re-
11 pair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement
12 under subsection (a), on submission of a notice of
13 intent to be subject to the permit.

14 “(2) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—The emer-
15 gency procedures for issuing permits in accordance
16 with section 325.2(e)(4) of title 33, Code of Federal
17 Regulations, shall apply to repair, restoration, recon-
18 struction, or replacement under subsection (a), and
19 such repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replace-
20 ment shall be considered an emergency under such
21 section.

22 “(3) NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT
23 EXEMPTION.—Repair, restoration, reconstruction, or
24 replacement under subsection (a) shall be eligible for
25 a waiver from the requirements of the National His-

1 toric Preservation Act of 1966 pursuant to part 78
2 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.

3 “(4) ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT EXEMPTION.—
4 An exemption from the requirements of the Endan-
5 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)
6 pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of that Act (16 U.S.C.
7 1536(a)(2)) shall apply to repair, restoration, recon-
8 struction, or replacement under subsection (a) and,
9 if the President makes the determination required
10 under section 7(p) of such Act, the determinations
11 required under subsections (g) and (h) of such sec-
12 tion shall be deemed to be made.

13 “(5) EXPEDITED CONSULTATION UNDER EN-
14 DANGERED SPECIES ACT.—Expedited consultation
15 pursuant to section 402.05 of title 50, Code of Fed-
16 eral Regulations, shall apply to repair, restoration,
17 reconstruction, or replacement under subsection (a).

18 “(6) OTHER EXEMPTIONS.—Any repair, res-
19 toration, reconstruction, or replacement that is ex-
20 empt under paragraph (5) shall also be exempt from
21 requirements under—

22 “(A) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16
23 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

24 “(B) the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16
25 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.); and

1 “(C) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination
2 Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

3 “(c) STATE-MANAGED REVIEW PROCESS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (a),
5 (b), and (d), with the written agreement of the Ad-
6 ministrator and a State, which may be in the form
7 of a memorandum of understanding, the Adminis-
8 trator may assign, and the State may assume, the
9 responsibilities of the Administrator with respect to
10 1 or more disaster recovery projects within the State
11 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
12 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the National
13 Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C.
14 300101 et seq.), so long as—

15 “(A) the State shall assume responsibilities
16 under this section subject to the same proce-
17 dural and substantive requirements that would
18 apply if such responsibilities were carried out by
19 the Administrator, including the exemptions
20 and expedited procedures under subsection (b);

21 “(B) any responsibility of the Adminis-
22 trator not explicitly assumed by the State under
23 such agreement shall remain the responsibility
24 of the Administrator;

1 “(C) nothing in such agreement preempts
2 or interferes with any power, jurisdiction, re-
3 sponsibility, or authority of an agency, other
4 than the Administrator, under applicable law
5 (including regulations), with respect to a
6 project;

7 “(D) the Administrator shall not require a
8 State, as a condition of participation in the pro-
9 gram, to forego project delivery methods that
10 are otherwise permissible for projects; and

11 “(E) a State assuming the responsibilities
12 of the Administrator under this section for a
13 specific project may use funds for attorney’s
14 fees directly attributable to eligible activities as-
15 sociated with the project for an increase in
16 management costs.

17 “(2) ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY.—If a
18 State assumes responsibility under paragraph (1)—

19 “(A) the Administrator may assign to such
20 State, and such State may assume, all or part
21 of the responsibilities of the Administrator for
22 environmental review, consultation, or other ac-
23 tion required under the National Environmental
24 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)
25 and the National Historic Preservation Act of

1 1966 (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.), pertaining to
2 the review or approval of a specific project; and

3 “(B) at the request of such State, the Ad-
4 ministrator may also assign to such State, and
5 such State may assume, the responsibilities of
6 the Administrator with respect to 1 or more
7 disaster recovery projects within the State
8 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
9 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the National
10 Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C.
11 300101 et seq.).

12 “(3) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—Not later than
13 180 days after the date of enactment of the FEMA
14 Act of 2025, the Administrator shall promulgate
15 regulations that establish requirements relating to
16 information required to be contained in any request
17 of a State to enter into a written agreement under
18 paragraph (1), including, at a minimum—

19 “(A) a description of the projects or class-
20 es of projects for which the State anticipates
21 exercising the authority under this subsection;

22 “(B) verification of the financial and per-
23 sonnel resources necessary to carry out such
24 authority;

1 “(C) a demonstration of compliance with
2 any applicable public notice law of the State, in-
3 cluding copies of comments received from a so-
4 licitation carried out pursuant to any such law;
5 and

6 “(D) a demonstration of compliance with
7 applicable Federal environmental and historic
8 preservation law.

9 “(4) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—A written agree-
10 ment under this section shall—

11 “(A) be executed by the Governor of the
12 respective State;

13 “(B) provide that the State—

14 “(i) agrees to presume all or part of
15 the responsibilities of the Administrator
16 described in paragraph (1);

17 “(ii) expressly consents, on behalf of
18 the State, to accept the jurisdiction of the
19 Federal courts for the compliance, dis-
20 charge, and enforcement of any responsi-
21 bility of the Administrator assumed by the
22 State; and

23 “(iii) certifies that State laws (includ-
24 ing regulations) are in effect that—

1 “(I) authorize the State to take
2 the actions necessary to carry out the
3 responsibilities being assumed under
4 such agreement; and

5 “(II) are comparable to section
6 552 of title 5, United States Code, in-
7 cluding providing that any decision re-
8 garding the public availability of a
9 document under such State laws is re-
10 viewable by a court of competent ju-
11 risdiction; and

12 “(III) agree to maintain the fi-
13 nancial resources necessary to carry
14 out the responsibilities being assumed;

15 “(C) require the State to provide to the
16 Administrator any information the Adminis-
17 trator reasonably considers necessary to ensure
18 that the State is adequately carrying out the re-
19 sponsibilities assigned to the State under such
20 agreement;

21 “(D) have a term of not more than 5
22 years; and

23 “(E) be renewable.

24 “(5) JURISDICTION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
2 district courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction
3 over any civil action against a State for failure
4 to carry out any responsibility of the State
5 under this section.

6 “(B) LEGAL STANDARDS AND REQUIRE-
7 MENTS.—A civil action under paragraph (1)
8 shall be governed by the legal standards and re-
9 quirements that would apply in such a civil ac-
10 tion against the Administrator had the Admin-
11 istrator taken the actions in question.

12 “(C) INTERVENTION.—The Administrator
13 shall have the right to intervene in any action
14 described in paragraph (1).

15 “(6) LIABILITY.—A State that assumes respon-
16 sibility under paragraph (2) shall be solely respon-
17 sible and solely liable for carrying out, in lieu of and
18 without further approval of the Administrator, the
19 responsibilities under such paragraph, until the par-
20 ticipation of the State is terminated under para-
21 graph (8).

22 “(7) LIMITATION ON AGREEMENTS.—Nothing
23 in this section permits a State to assume any rule-
24 making authority of the Administrator under any
25 Federal law.

1 “(8) TERMINATION.—

2 “(A) TERMINATION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

3 The Administrator may only terminate the par-
4 ticipation of any State under this subsection
5 if—

6 “(i) the Administrator determines
7 that the State is not adequately carrying
8 out the responsibilities assigned to the
9 State in a written agreement under this
10 subsection;

11 “(ii) the Administrator provides to the
12 State—

13 “(I) a notification of a deter-
14 mination of noncompliance;

15 “(II) a period of not less than
16 120 days to take such corrective ac-
17 tion as the Administrator determines
18 to be necessary to comply with the ap-
19 plicable agreement; and

20 “(III) on request of the Gov-
21 ernor, a detailed description of each
22 responsibility in need of corrective ac-
23 tion regarding an inadequacy identi-
24 fied under this subparagraph; and

1 “(iii) the State, after the notification
2 and period provided under clause (ii), fails
3 to take satisfactory corrective action, as
4 determined by the Administrator.

5 “(B) TERMINATION BY STATE.—A State
6 may terminate the participation of the State in
7 the program at any time by providing to the
8 Administrator a notice by not later than the
9 date that is 90 days before the date of termi-
10 nation, and subject to such terms and condi-
11 tions as the Administrator may provide.

12 “(9) AUDITS.—To ensure compliance by a
13 State with any agreement of the State under this
14 subsection (including compliance by the State with
15 all Federal laws for which responsibility is assumed
16 under paragraph (2)), for each State participating in
17 an agreement under this subsection, the inspector
18 general of the Federal Emergency Management
19 Agency established in section 14 of the FEMA Act
20 of 2025, shall—

21 “(A) meet with the State not later than
22 180 days after signing an agreement to review
23 how the agreement is being implement and plan
24 the first annual audit, including consulting with

1 the State on the selection of the audit team
2 members;

3 “(B) conduct an annual audit for each
4 year the State is participating in an agreement
5 under this subsection;

6 “(C) in the case of an agreement with a
7 duration of more than 5 years, conduct a com-
8 prehensive audit covering the first 5 years of
9 such agreement;

10 “(D) complete each audit within 180 days,
11 including time for public comment and re-
12 sponses;

13 “(E) make all audits available to the public
14 for comment; and

15 “(F) respond to public comments not later
16 than 60 days after the last day of the comment
17 period.

18 “(10) MONITORING.—After a State has been
19 participating in an agreement under this subsection
20 for 4 years, the Administrator shall continue to
21 monitor the compliance of such State with the agree-
22 ment, including whether the State is providing
23 enough funding to meet the obligations of such
24 agreement.

1 “(11) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Adminis-
2 trator shall submit to Congress an annual report
3 that describes the administration of this subsection.

4 “(12) RELATIONSHIP TO LOCALLY ADMINIS-
5 TERED PROJECTS.—A State assuming authority
6 under a written agreement under this subsection
7 may, as appropriate and at the request of a local
8 government—

9 “(A) exercise such authority on behalf of
10 the local government for a locally administered
11 project; or

12 “(B) provide guidance and training on con-
13 solidating and minimizing the documentation
14 and environmental analyses necessary for spon-
15 sors of a locally administered project to comply
16 with the National Environmental Policy Act of
17 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and any com-
18 parable requirements under State law.

19 “(13) AGENCY DEEMED TO BE FEDERAL AGEN-
20 CY.—A State agency assuming responsibility under
21 an agreement under this subsection shall be deemed
22 to be an agency for the purposes of section 2412 of
23 title 28, United States Code.

24 “(d) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE BUILDING
25 CODES.—In this section, the term ‘applicable building

1 codes’ has the meaning given the term in section
2 409(b)(11).

3 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion shall alter or affect the applicability of the National
5 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
6 seq.) to other Federal actions taken under this Act or
7 under any other provisions of law.”.

8 **SEC. 105. UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEW.**

9 Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
10 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.)
11 is amended by striking section 429 and inserting the fol-
12 lowing:

13 **“SEC. 429. COORDINATION OF REQUIRED FEDERAL RE-**
14 **VIEWS.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to expedite disaster re-
16 covery, the President shall establish a unified interagency
17 review process to ensure compliance with environmental
18 and historical requirements under Federal law, including
19 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
20 4321 et seq.) and the National Historic Preservation Act
21 of 1966 (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.), relating to projects
22 carried out through assistance provided under this Act,
23 consistent with applicable law.

24 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
25 the date of enactment of the FEMA Act of 2025, and in

1 consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality
2 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the
3 Administrator shall—

4 “(1) formulate and implement administrative,
5 procedural, and policy mechanisms to enable the
6 Federal Emergency Management Agency to act as
7 the lead agency ensuring completion of the environ-
8 mental and historical review process for projects in
9 a timely, coordinated, and responsible manner;

10 “(2) carry out the obligations of the Federal
11 Emergency Management Agency with respect to a
12 project under any other applicable law concurrently,
13 and in conjunction with, other environmental and
14 historical reviews and authorizations being con-
15 ducted by other cooperating and participating agen-
16 cies, with the Federal Emergency Management
17 Agency as the lead agency; and

18 “(3) in the case in which an environmental im-
19 pact statement is required for a project, prepare one
20 document under section 107(b) of the National En-
21 vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336a(b)
22 for such project unless the lead agency provides jus-
23 tification in the coordinated project plan that mul-
24 tiple environmental documents are more efficient for
25 project review and authorization.

1 “(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As early as practicable dur-
3 ing an environmental and historical review, but not
4 later than the commencement of scoping for a
5 project requiring the preparation of an environ-
6 mental impact statement under the National Envi-
7 ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
8 seq.), the lead agency shall engage the cooperating
9 agencies to determine the range of reasonable alter-
10 natives to be considered for a project.

11 “(2) COOPERATION.—The lead agency and each
12 cooperating and participating agency shall work co-
13 operatively to identify and resolve issues that could
14 delay completion of an environmental and historical
15 review or authorization required for the project
16 under applicable law or result in the denial of any
17 approval under applicable law, including—

18 “(A) the need for mitigation actions justi-
19 fied by the risk of natural hazards that are con-
20 sistent with the geographic area in which the
21 major disaster occurred; and

22 “(B) compliance challenges that may arise
23 as a result of the ongoing recovery from a
24 major disaster.

1 “(3) RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.—The lead
2 agency shall determine the range of reasonable alter-
3 natives for consideration in any document that the
4 lead agency is responsible for preparing in the envi-
5 ronmental and historical review for the project.

6 “(4) METHODOLOGIES.—The lead agency shall
7 determine, in collaboration with each cooperating
8 and participating agency at appropriate times during
9 the review, the methodologies to be used and the
10 level of detail required in the analysis of each alter-
11 native determined under paragraph (3) for a project.

12 “(5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

13 “(A) LEAD AGENCY.—The lead agency (as
14 such term is defined in section 111 of the Na-
15 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
16 U.S.C. 4336e)) shall make information avail-
17 able to each cooperating and participating agen-
18 cy and State as early as practicable in the envi-
19 ronmental and historical review regarding the
20 environmental, historic, and socioeconomic re-
21 sources located within the project area and the
22 general locations of the alternatives determined
23 under paragraph (3) under consideration.

24 “(B) COOPERATING AND PARTICIPATING
25 AGENCIES.—As early as practicable during an

1 environmental and historical review, cooperating
2 and participating agencies (as such terms are
3 defined in section 111 of the National Environ-
4 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)
5 shall identify any issues of concern regarding
6 any potential environmental or historical im-
7 pacts of the project, including any issues that
8 could substantially delay or prevent an agency
9 from completing any environmental or historical
10 review or authorization required for the project,
11 and communicate any issues to the State.

12 “(6) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The lead agency shall
13 establish a comment period of not less than 45 days
14 and not more than 60 days after the date on which
15 a notice announcing availability of the environmental
16 impact statement is published in the Federal Reg-
17 ister to solicit comments from an agency or the pub-
18 lic on a draft environmental impact statement, un-
19 less—

20 “(A) the lead agency, the State, and any
21 cooperating agency agree to a longer deadline;
22 or

23 “(B) the lead agency, in consultation with
24 each cooperating agency, extends the deadline
25 for good cause.

1 “(7) RECORD OF DECISION.—Not later than 90
2 days after the date on which a final environmental
3 impact statement is issued, Federal agencies shall,
4 to the maximum extent practicable, issue a record of
5 decision for such environmental impact statement.

6 “(8) CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS.—The authori-
7 ties granted under this section may be exercised for
8 an individual project or a category of projects.

9 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
10 tion shall be construed to affect the applicability of section
11 316 to projects eligible under such section.”.

12 **SEC. 106. BLOCK GRANTS FOR SMALL DISASTERS.**

13 The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
14 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended
15 by adding at the end the following:

16 **“TITLE VIII—BLOCK GRANTS**
17 **FOR SMALL DISASTERS**

18 **“SEC. 801. BLOCK GRANTS FOR SMALL DISASTERS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a State or the
20 governing body of an Indian tribal government for the
21 area in which a covered small disaster occurs may request
22 a lump sum payment of the estimated damages calculated
23 under subsection (b) for such disaster in lieu of any assist-
24 ance under the Public Assistance Program for such dis-
25 aster.

1 “(b) CALCULATION.—Notwithstanding the require-
2 ments of section 206.47(b) of title 44, Code of Federal
3 Regulations, a payment under subsection (a) shall be
4 equal to the amount that is 80 percent of the total esti-
5 mated cost of the Federal share under the Public Assist-
6 ance Program for a covered small disaster in the area of
7 jurisdiction of the State or Indian tribal government re-
8 questing such payment.

9 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribal
11 government receiving a payment under this section
12 may not receive assistance under the Public Assist-
13 ance Program with respect to the covered small dis-
14 aster for which a payment was accepted under this
15 section.

16 “(2) FINAL PAYMENT.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A payment under this
18 section may not be increased or decreased based
19 on actual costs calculated for a covered small
20 disaster.

21 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding sub-
22 paragraph (A), the Administrator may adjust a
23 payment under this section in the event of un-
24 foreseen circumstances at no fault of the appli-
25 cant.

1 “(3) SELECTION OF OPTION.—A State or In-
2 dian tribal government may designate to the Federal
3 Emergency Management Agency on an annual basis
4 the interest of such State or Indian tribal govern-
5 ment in participating in the small disaster authority.

6 “(4) INDICATION.—A State or Indian tribal
7 government shall indicate at the time of the submis-
8 sion of a request for a major disaster declaration
9 that such State or Indian tribal government is re-
10 questing assistance for such incident under this sec-
11 tion.

12 “(5) TIMING REQUIREMENT.—The Adminis-
13 trator and the State or Indian tribal government
14 shall—

15 “(A) reach an agreement on the amount
16 under subsection (b) not later than 90 days
17 after the incident; or

18 “(B) administer the incident under the
19 procedures and authorities for the Public As-
20 sistance Program.

21 “(6) ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN.—To be eligible for
22 assistance under this section, a State or Indian trib-
23 al government shall have an administrative plan ap-
24 proved by the Administrator in place at the time of
25 the obligation of funds provided under this section.

1 “(d) APPROVAL OF FUNDS.—The Administrator
2 shall approve funding for eligible disasters not later than
3 90 days after a receipt of a complete application, including
4 all required cost estimates and supporting documentation,
5 from the applicant. In evaluating whether such cost esti-
6 mate is accurate and reasonable, the Administrator may
7 not consider preexisting condition.

8 “(e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Not later than 30
9 days after the approval of an application under this sec-
10 tion, the Administrator shall make the grant funds avail-
11 able to the applicant.

12 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or Indian tribal gov-
13 ernment receiving a payment under this section may use
14 such payment for recovery for the covered small disaster
15 in any manner determined appropriate by the respective
16 Governor or governing body of such State or Indian tribal
17 government if such funds—

18 “(1) address impacts and needs resulting from
19 the declared disaster incident;

20 “(2) are provided to State, Indian tribal govern-
21 ment, territorial and local government agencies, and
22 private nonprofit entities eligible for Public Assist-
23 ance Program funding; and

24 “(3) are used in a manner that complies with
25 applicable environmental, historic preservation, and

1 civil rights laws (including the National Environ-
2 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)
3 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
4 (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.)) and any applicable re-
5 siliency standards under section 203.

6 “(g) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS AND REGULA-
7 TIONS.—A State or Indian tribal government shall be re-
8 sponsible for ensuring compliance under subsection (f)(3).

9 “(h) REPORT TO FEMA.—A State or governing body
10 of an Indian tribal government shall submit to the Federal
11 Emergency Management Agency an annual report of ex-
12 penses for a covered small disaster in the area of jurisdic-
13 tion of the respective State or Indian tribal government.

14 “(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
15 tion shall be construed to—

16 “(1) affect the eligibility of a State or Indian
17 tribal government for assistance under section 404;
18 or

19 “(2) affect any program in title IV or V that
20 is not a Public Assistance Program.

21 “(j) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than
22 2 years after the date of enactment of the FEMA Act of
23 2025, and annually thereafter, the inspector general of the
24 Federal Emergency Management Agency established in
25 section 14 of such Act shall conduct a review and submit

1 to the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
2 mental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Transpor-
3 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives,
4 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the
5 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representa-
6 tives a report containing—

7 “(1) information on the number of States and
8 Indian tribal governments that—

9 “(A) have designated to the Federal Emer-
10 gency Management Agency interest in partici-
11 pating in the small disaster authority under
12 subsection (c)(3); and

13 “(B) have requested assistance under this
14 section;

15 “(2) a sampling of the reports submitted to the
16 Federal Emergency Management Agency under sub-
17 section (h) and an assessment, based on such re-
18 ports, on whether funds provided under this section
19 for recovery from covered small disasters have been
20 used to address impacts and needs resulting from
21 such disasters; and

22 “(3) any evidence of criminal fraud and wheth-
23 er there have been any referrals for further inves-
24 tigation or prosecution.

25 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) COVERED SMALL DISASTER.—The term
2 ‘covered small disaster’ means a major disaster de-
3 clared under section 401 or an emergency declared
4 under section 501 with estimated damage eligible
5 under the Public Assistance Program of less than or
6 equal to 125 percent of the State’s per capita indi-
7 cator.

8 “(2) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term
9 ‘Public Assistance Program’ means the programs
10 under sections 403, 406, 407, 409, and 502.”.

11 **SEC. 107. COMMON SENSE DEBRIS REMOVAL.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 407 of the Robert T.
13 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 5173) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “, whenever he
16 determines it to be in the public interest,”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(f) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL REQUIRE-
19 MENTS.—Except as required under subsection (b), the
20 President may not impose any additional requirements for
21 authorizing the removal of debris and wreckage on publicly
22 and privately owned lands and waters, or for making
23 grants for the purpose of such removal, under this sec-
24 tion.”.

1 (b) GUIDANCE.—The Administrator of the Federal
2 Emergency Management Agency shall revise any guidance
3 or regulations as necessary to reflect the amendments
4 made by this section.

5 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—

6 (1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
7 Congress that certain types of payment structures
8 for debris removal service contracts create challenges
9 for effective oversight, and disincentivize effective or
10 efficient clean-up, and increases costs.

11 (2) EFFECTIVE CONTRACTS.—Not later than 1
12 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
13 ministrator shall—

14 (A) complete a review of contracting for
15 debris removal services;

16 (B) identify the best types of contracting
17 for debris removal that reduce or eliminate
18 waste, fraud and abuse and increase efficiency,
19 including an expanded use of fixed-priced con-
20 tracts;

21 (C) develop best practices for such con-
22 tracts that ensure effective debris removal,
23 speed, and appropriate accountability of costs
24 and oversight of performance; and

1 (D) identify technologies that can be used
2 to facilitate debris estimation, monitoring, and
3 reporting that will streamline and accelerate de-
4bris removal, reduce costs, and increase ac-
5countability.

6 **SEC. 108. DISASTER MANAGEMENT COSTS MODERNIZA-**
7 **TION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324 of the Robert T.
9 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
10 (42 U.S.C. 5165b) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

12 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
13 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
14 adjusting the margins accordingly; and

15 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as
16 so redesignated, by striking “provide the fol-
17 lowing percentage rates” and inserting “provide

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

20 “(B) the following percentage rates”;

21 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
22 section (d); and

23 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(c) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT
2 COSTS.—

3 “(1) DEFINITION OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR MAN-
4 AGEMENT COSTS.—In this subsection, the term ‘ex-
5 cess funds for management costs’ means the dif-
6 ference between—

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

10 “(B) as of the date on which the grant
11 award is closed, the amount of funding for
12 management costs activities expended by the
13 grantee or subgrantee receiving the financial as-
14 sistance for costs described in subparagraph
15 (A).

16 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR
17 MANAGEMENT COSTS.—The President may make
18 available to a grantee or subgrantee receiving finan-
19 cial assistance under section 403, 404, 406, 407,
20 409, 422, or 502 any excess funds for management
21 costs.

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

1 “(A) activities associated with building ca-
2 capacity to prepare for, recover from, or mitigate
3 the impacts of a major disaster or emergency
4 declared under section 401 or 501, respectively;
5 and

6 “(B) management costs associated with
7 any—

8 “(i) major disaster;

9 “(ii) emergency;

10 “(iii) disaster preparedness measure;

11 or

12 “(iv) mitigation activity or measure
13 authorized under section 203, 204, 205, or
14 404.

15 “(4) AVAILABILITY.—Excess funds for manage-
16 ment costs made available to a grantee or sub-
17 grantee under paragraph (2) shall remain available
18 to the grantee or subgrantee until the date that is
19 5 years after the date on which the excess funds for
20 management costs are made available under para-
21 graph (2).”.

22 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
23 section (a) shall apply with respect to any grant award
24 in relation to a major disaster or emergency declared
25 under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T.

1 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
2 (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191)—

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

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

7 (c) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amend-
9 ments made by subsection (a).

10 **SEC. 109. STREAMLINING AND CONSOLIDATING INFORMA-**
11 **TION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAM-**
12 **AGE ASSESSMENTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Re-
14 covery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 **“SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE IN-**
17 **FORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY**
18 **DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.**

19 “(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2
20 years after the date of enactment of the FEMA Act of
21 2025, the Administrator, in coordination with the Admin-
22 istrator of the Small Business Administration, the Sec-
23 retary of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster
24 Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors

1 General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate
2 agencies, shall—

3 “(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, con-
4 sistent with law, under which the collection of infor-
5 mation from disaster assistance applicants and
6 grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, ef-
7 ficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be
8 less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming
9 for applicants and grantees; and

10 “(2) develop a plan for the regular collection
11 and reporting of information on Federal disaster as-
12 sistance awarded, including the establishment and
13 maintenance of a fully accessible website for pre-
14 senting the information to the public.

15 “(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not
16 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the
17 FEMA Act of 2025, the Administrator, in consultation
18 with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity
19 and Efficiency, shall convene a working group on a regular
20 basis with the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Of-
21 fice of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Health
22 and Human Services, the Administrator of the Small
23 Business Administration, the Secretary of Transportation,
24 the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Devel-

1 opment, and other appropriate agencies as the Adminis-
2 trator considers necessary, to—

3 “(1) identify and describe the potential areas of
4 duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage
5 assessments after disaster declarations;

6 “(2) determine the applicability of having one
7 Federal agency make the assessments for all agen-
8 cies; and

9 “(3) identify potential emerging technologies,
10 such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with
11 the requirements established in the FEMA Account-
12 ability, Modernization and Transparency Act of
13 2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the admin-
14 istration of preliminary damage assessments.

15 “(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator
16 shall submit 1 comprehensive report that comprises the
17 plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and
18 a report of the findings of the working group convened
19 under subsection (b), which may include recommenda-
20 tions, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
21 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
22 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
23 Senate.

24 “(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive re-
25 port required under subsection (c) shall be made available

1 to the public and posted on the website of the Federal
2 Emergency Management Agency—

3 “(1) in precompressed, easily downloadable
4 versions that are made available in all appropriate
5 formats; and

6 “(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

7 “(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the
8 comprehensive report under subsection (c), the Adminis-
9 trator may use any publication, database, or web-based
10 resource, and any information compiled by any govern-
11 ment agency, nongovernmental organization, or other enti-
12 ty that is made available.

13 “(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after sub-
14 mission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator
15 and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General
16 on Integrity and Efficiency shall brief, upon request, the
17 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
18 House of Representatives and the Committee on Home-
19 land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on
20 the findings and any recommendations made in the com-
21 prehensive report.

22 “(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days
23 after the submission of the comprehensive report under
24 subsection (c), the Administrator shall implement any rec-
25 ommendations contained in such report.”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to
2 section 1223 in the table of contents of the FAA Reau-
3 thorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended
4 to read as follows:

“Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and pre-
liminary damage assessments.”.

5 **SEC. 110. REASONABLE INCIDENT PERIODS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
8 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall convene an
9 advisory panel consisting of emergency management per-
10 sonnel to assist the Agency in reviewing the process and
11 procedures related to the determination of incident periods
12 for all hazards for emergencies or major disasters declared
13 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
14 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

15 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The advisory panel convened
17 under subsection (a) shall consist of at least 2 rep-
18 resentatives from national emergency management
19 organizations, at least 2 relevant county officials, at
20 least 1 representative from the National Weather
21 Service, and at least 5 representatives from each of
22 the 10 regions of the Federal Emergency Manage-
23 ment Agency selected from emergency management

1 personnel employed by State, local, territorial, or
2 Tribal authorities within each region.

3 (2) INCLUSION ON PANEL.—To the furthest ex-
4 tent practicable, representation on the advisory
5 panel shall include emergency management per-
6 sonnel from rural, urban, underrepresented, Tribal,
7 and insular jurisdictions and representatives of State
8 or local governments with responsibility for the fi-
9 nancial or budgetary impact of disasters.

10 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing the process and
11 procedures related to the determination of incident periods
12 under subsection (a), the advisory panel convened under
13 such subsection shall consider the effectiveness of incident
14 periods, including—

- 15 (1) incident periods for slow onset disasters;
16 (2) incident periods for correlated noncontig-
17 uous disasters;
18 (3) incident periods for compound disasters;
19 and
20 (4) incident periods for cascading disasters.

21 (d) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
23 submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a report
24 regarding the findings of the review under this section
25 that includes any recommendations of the advisory panel

1 convened under subsection (a), including additional legis-
2 lation that may be necessary to address such findings.

3 (e) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
5 mit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
6 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
7 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
8 Senate a report discussing—

9 (1) a summary of the findings of the advisory
10 panel convened under subsection (a);

11 (2) the implementation of recommendations
12 from such advisory panel; and

13 (3) any additional legislative recommendations
14 necessary to improve the effectiveness of incident pe-
15 riods.

16 (f) RULEMAKING.—Immediately following a 30-day
17 congressional review period of the report described in sub-
18 section (e), the Administrator shall begin a rulemaking to
19 issue such regulations as are necessary to implement the
20 recommendations of the advisory panel.

21 **SEC. 111. FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POL-**
22 **ICY.**

23 Section 420(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
24 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187(a))
25 is amended—

1 (1) by striking the period at the end and insert-
2 ing “; and”;

3 (2) by striking “local government for the miti-
4 gation” and inserting the following: “local govern-
5 ment for—

6 “(1) the mitigation”; and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(2) assessments and emergency stabilization to
9 protect public safety irrespective of the incident pe-
10 riod for a declared fire.”.

11 **SEC. 112. INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ELIGIBILITY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 420 of the Robert T.
13 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 5187) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, Indian
16 tribal government,” before “or local government”;

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

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

21 “(b) PROCEDURE FOR REQUEST.—The Governor of
22 a State or the Chief Executive of an Indian tribal govern-
23 ment affected by a fire described in subsection (a) may
24 directly submit a request to authorize assistance under
25 this section.”; and

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

2 “(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
3 shall prohibit an Indian tribal government from receiving
4 assistance under this section pursuant to an authorization
5 made at the request of a State under subsection (b) if
6 assistance is not authorized under this section for the
7 same incident based on a request by the Indian tribal gov-
8 ernment under subsection (b).”.

9 (b) REGULATIONS.—

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

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

17 (A) authorize the Federal Emergency Man-
18 agement Agency to directly receive a request for
19 a fire management assistance declaration from
20 an Indian Tribal Government and directly pro-
21 vide related grants and resources to Indian
22 Tribal Governments;

23 (B) clarify that Indian Tribal Governments
24 for which the President does not grant a re-
25 quest described in subparagraph (A) remain eli-

1 gible to receive assistance under section 420 of
2 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
3 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187)
4 through assistance granted under a fire man-
5 agement assistance declaration made at the re-
6 quest of a State;

7 (C) consider the unique conditions that af-
8 fect the general welfare of Indian Tribal gov-
9 ernments; and

10 (D) enter into government-to-government
11 consultation with Indian Tribal Governments
12 regarding the regulations.

13 (3) FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE DECLARA-
14 TION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “fire
15 management assistance declaration” means a dec-
16 laration approved under section 204.21(a) of title
17 44, Code of Federal Regulations.

18 **SEC. 113. STRENGTHENING CLOSEOUTS FOR CRITICAL**
19 **SERVICES.**

20 Section 705 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
21 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5205) is
22 amended—

23 (1) by inserting “or owner or operator of a pri-
24 vate nonprofit facility” after “State or local govern-
25 ment” each place it appears;

1 (2) by inserting “or owner or operator of a pri-
2 vate nonprofit facility” after “Federal, State, or
3 local government” each place it appears; and

4 (3) by inserting “or owners or operators of pri-
5 vate nonprofit facilities” after “State, local, or In-
6 dian tribal governments”.

7 **SEC. 114. SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-**
8 **SONNEL.**

9 Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
10 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is
11 amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(e) SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-
13 SONNEL.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major disaster for
15 which the President has authorized emergency pro-
16 tective measures for an area within the jurisdiction
17 of a State, Indian tribal, or local government, the
18 Administrator may reimburse the State, Indian trib-
19 al, or local government for costs relating to shel-
20 tering emergency response personnel, including indi-
21 viduals that are a part of the same predisaster
22 household as such personnel, in exclusive-use con-
23 gregate or noncongregate settings if the Governor of
24 the State or chief executive of the Indian tribal or
25 local government determines that the damage or dis-

1 ruption to such area is of such a magnitude as to
2 disrupt the provision of emergency protective meas-
3 ures within such area.

4 “(2) LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
6 may only reimburse a State, Indian tribal, or
7 local government for the costs of sheltering
8 emergency response personnel under paragraph
9 (1) for such a period of time as the Adminis-
10 trator determines reasonable based in the indi-
11 vidual characteristics of and impacts to the af-
12 fected area, including the extent of damage, the
13 availability of alternative housing options, the
14 availability of utilities, and disruptions to trans-
15 portation infrastructure.

16 “(B) MAXIMUM DURATION OF REIMBURSE-
17 MENT.—The period of reimbursement under
18 subparagraph (A) may not exceed the 6-month
19 period beginning on the date on which the inci-
20 dent period ends.

21 “(3) DEFINITION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE
22 PERSONNEL.—In this subsection, the term ‘emer-
23 gency response personnel’ means—

24 “(A) employees or contracted employees
25 providing law enforcement, fire suppression,

1 rescue, emergency medical, emergency manage-
2 ment, or emergency communications services;
3 and

4 “(B) elected officials, except Members of
5 Congress, responsible for the overseeing or di-
6 recting emergency response operations or recov-
7 ery activities.”.

8 **SEC. 115. EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO FIGHT**
9 **FLOODING DAMAGE.**

10 Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
11 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is fur-
12 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(f) FURTHER EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEAS-
14 URES.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In cases in which an owner
16 or operator of a stormwater pumping station en-
17 gages in flood fighting activities during emergency
18 protective measures or emergency work authorized
19 by this section, the President shall reimburse such
20 owner or operator in accordance with applicable
21 equipment rates for pumps, including costs of own-
22 ership including depreciation, overhead, equipment
23 overhaul (labor, parts, and supplies), maintenance
24 (labor, parts, and supplies), lubrication, tires,
25 ground engaging component (if applicable), and fuel

1 regardless of whether the pumps are permanently or
2 temporarily mounted.

3 “(2) 2025 EQUIPMENT RATE SCHEDULE.—The
4 Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
5 ment Agency shall—

6 “(A) revise the equipment rate schedule to
7 conform with this section;

8 “(B) include in the schedule rates for
9 pumps of up to 2000 horsepower; and

10 “(C) make the equipment rate schedule
11 publicly available.

12 “(3) MINIMUM REIMBURSEMENT RATE.—In no
13 event shall the reimbursement rate for pumps lo-
14 cated in pump stations be less than the amount in
15 the equipment rate schedule for 2023 for such
16 pumps, adjusted for inflation.

17 “(4) FLOOD FIGHTING ACTIVITIES DEFINED.—
18 In this subsection, the term ‘flood fighting activities’
19 includes dewatering behind a levee by breaching or
20 pumping.’”.

21 **SEC. 116. FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN APPEALS.**

22 Section 423 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
23 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189a) is
24 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(e) ATTORNEY’S FEES.—In cases in which the
2 Board decides in favor of the applicant or otherwise con-
3 cludes there is an error on the part of the Administrator
4 in denial of assistance, the Administrator shall reimburse
5 the applicant for attorney’s fees.”.

6 **SEC. 117. EXPEDITED FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY WORK.**

7 Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
8 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is
9 amending by adding at the end the following:

10 “(e) DISBURSEMENT.—Reimbursements provided
11 under this section shall be disbursed to the applicant not
12 later than 120 days after the applicant submits a request
13 for reimbursement if the President determines at least 90
14 percent of estimated costs are eligible for such reimburse-
15 ment.”.

16 **SEC. 118. CONSISTENCY IN PROCUREMENT PRACTICES.**

17 For the purposes of applying the procurement stand-
18 ards under part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regula-
19 tions to assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford
20 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
21 5121 et seq.), local governments shall be treated as a
22 State or Tribal government under section 200.317 of title
23 2, Code of Federal Regulations.

1 **SEC. 119. HOUSEHOLD PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS.**

2 Section 502(a) of Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
3 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5192(a)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (7) by striking “and” at the
6 end;

7 (2) in paragraph (8)(B) by striking the period
8 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(9) provide assistance for the rescue, care,
11 shelter, and essential needs—

12 “(A) to individuals with household pets
13 and service animals; and

14 “(B) to such pets and animals.”.

15 **SEC. 120. UTILIZATION OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL CON-**
16 **TRACTS TO SUPPORT RESPONSE CAPACITY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—In entering into a contract for
18 disaster response and recovery services, the Administrator
19 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall con-
20 sider selecting regional and local providers with a dem-
21 onstrated capacity to perform such services, in order to—

22 (1) strengthen State and local emergency re-
23 sponse capabilities;

24 (2) promote continuity of operations and work-
25 force within affected communities;

1 (3) reduce delays associated with long-distance
2 mobilization; and

3 (4) ensure that resources are tailored to the
4 unique geographic and operational needs of the im-
5 pacted area.

6 (b) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),
7 the Administrator shall consider preexisting State and
8 local contracts, mutual aid agreements, and other stand-
9 ing arrangements that leverage local assets, personnel,
10 and knowledge.

11 **SEC. 121. REMOVING DISINCENTIVES FOR STATE FUNDING.**

12 Section 311 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
13 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5154) is
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(d) STATE RISK-MANAGEMENT FUNDS.—Except in
16 cases in which a State has declared in writing that it is
17 acting as a self-insurer pursuant to subsection (c), a risk
18 management fund, rainy day fund, self-retention fund, or
19 similar fund established to manage risk by a State or sub-
20 division of a State, that is 100 percent self-funded by the
21 State or subdivision thereof, shall not be considered—

22 “(1) insurance for purposes of this section; or

23 “(2) a duplication of benefits under section
24 312.”.

1 **SEC. 122. LOAN INTEREST PAYMENT RELIEF.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford
3 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
4 5170 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 431. LOAN INTEREST PAYMENT RELIEF.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through
8 the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management
9 Agency, shall provide financial assistance to a local gov-
10 ernment or electric cooperative as reimbursement for
11 qualifying interest.

12 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the fol-
14 lowing definitions apply:

15 “(A) QUALIFYING INTEREST.—The term
16 ‘qualifying interest’ means, with respect to a
17 qualifying loan, the lesser of—

18 “(i) the actual interest paid to a lend-
19 er for such qualifying loan; and

20 “(ii) the interest that would have been
21 paid to a lender if such qualifying loan had
22 an interest rate equal to the prime rate
23 most recently published on the Federal Re-
24 serve Statistical Release on selected inter-
25 est rates.

1 “(B) QUALIFYING LOAN.—The term ‘quali-
2 fying loan’ means a loan—

3 “(i) obtained by a local government or
4 electric cooperative; and

5 “(ii) of which not less than 90 percent
6 of the proceeds are used to fund activities
7 for which such local government or electric
8 cooperative receives assistance under this
9 Act after the date on which such loan is
10 disbursed.

11 “(2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—For purposes of
12 this section, the term ‘local government’ includes the
13 District of Columbia.”.

14 (b) RULES OF APPLICABILITY.—

15 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Any qualifying interest (as
16 such term is defined in section 431 of the Robert T.
17 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
18 Act, as added by this Act) incurred by a local gov-
19 ernment or electric cooperative in the 9 years pre-
20 ceding the date of enactment of this Act shall be
21 treated as eligible for financial assistance for pur-
22 poses of such section.

23 (2) APPROPRIATIONS.—Only amounts appro-
24 priated on or after the date of enactment of this Act

1 may be made available to carry out the amendment
2 made by this section.

3 **TITLE II—INDIVIDUAL**
4 **ASSISTANCE REFORMS**

5 **SEC. 201. INFORMATION SHARING FOR FEDERAL AGEN-**
6 **CIES.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED DISASTER APPLI-
8 CATION SYSTEM.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
10 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall estab-
11 lish and maintain a web-based interagency electronic
12 information sharing system, to be known as the
13 “unified disaster application system”, to—

14 (A) facilitate the administration of the uni-
15 versal application for direct Federal disaster as-
16 sistance established under section 202;

17 (B) carry out the purposes of disaster as-
18 sistance programs swiftly, efficiently, and in ac-
19 cordance with applicable laws, regulations, and
20 the privacy and data protections provided under
21 this section; and

22 (C) support the detection, prevention, and
23 investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, or discrimi-
24 nation in the administration of disaster assist-
25 ance programs.

1 (2) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In es-
2 tablishing and maintaining the unified disaster ap-
3 plication system under this subsection, the Adminis-
4 trator may collect and maintain disaster assistance
5 information received from a disaster assistance
6 agency, a block grant recipient, or an applicant for
7 a disaster assistance program and share such infor-
8 mation with any other disaster assistance agency or
9 block grant recipient using such system.

10 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator shall
11 ensure that the unified disaster application system
12 established and maintained under this subsection—

13 (A) allows an applicant to receive status
14 updates on an application for disaster assist-
15 ance programs submitted through such system;

16 (B) allows for applicants to update disaster
17 assistance information throughout the recovery
18 journeys of such applicants in accordance with
19 established application timeframes;

20 (C) allows for the distribution to applicants
21 of information about additional recovery re-
22 sources that may be available in a disaster
23 stricken area;

24 (D) provides an applicant with information
25 and documentation relating to an application

1 for a disaster assistance program submitted by
2 such applicant; and

3 (E) contains any other capabilities deter-
4 mined necessary by the head of a disaster as-
5 sistance agency.

6 (b) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator may facili-
7 tate the collection of disaster assistance information into
8 the unified disaster application system established under
9 subsection (a) only after the following requirements have
10 been met:

11 (1) The Administrator certifies that the unified
12 disaster application system substantially complies
13 with the data security standards and best practices
14 established pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 35
15 of title 44, United States Code, and any other appli-
16 cable Federal information security policy.

17 (2) The Administrator publishes a privacy im-
18 pact assessment for the unified disaster application
19 system, in accordance with section 208(b)(1)(B) of
20 the E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501
21 note).

22 (3) The Administrator, after consulting with
23 disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard
24 rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies,
25 block grant recipients, and personnel granted access

1 to disaster assistance information to protect such in-
2 formation from improper disclosure.

3 (c) COLLECTION AND SHARING OF ADDITIONAL
4 RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may au-
6 thorize the additional collection, maintenance, shar-
7 ing, and use of disaster assistance information by
8 publishing a notice on the unified disaster applica-
9 tion system established under subsection (a) that in-
10 cludes a detailed description of—

11 (A) the specific amendments to the collec-
12 tion, maintenance, and sharing of disaster as-
13 sistance information authorized;

14 (B) why each such amendment to how dis-
15 aster assistance information is collected, main-
16 tained, or shared is necessary to carry out the
17 purposes of a disaster assistance program and
18 consistent with the fair information practice
19 principles; and

20 (C) the disaster assistance agencies and
21 block grant recipients that will be granted ac-
22 cess to the additional information to carry out
23 the purposes of any disaster assistance pro-
24 gram.

1 (2) NOTICE AND PUBLICATION REQUIRE-
2 MENTS.—The publication of a notice under para-
3 graph (1) of a revision to the unified disaster appli-
4 cation system of records prior to any new collection,
5 or uses, of Privacy Act categories of records, to
6 carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance pro-
7 gram with regard to a disaster declared by the
8 President under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T.
9 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
10 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), shall be deemed to sat-
11 isfy the notice and publication requirements of sec-
12 tion 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for
13 the entire period of performance for any assistance
14 provided under a disaster assistance program.

15 (3) WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION RE-
16 QUIREMENTS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of
18 a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sec-
19 tions 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
20 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
21 U.S.C. 5170; 5191) by the President, the Ad-
22 ministrator may waive the requirements of sub-
23 chapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United
24 States Code, with respect to voluntary collection
25 of information for the entire period of perform-

1 ance for any assistance provided under a dis-
2 aster assistance program.

3 (B) TRANSPARENCY.—Upon exercising the
4 waiver authority under subparagraph (A), the
5 Administrator shall—

6 (i) promptly post on a website of the
7 Federal Emergency Management Agency a
8 brief justification for such waiver, the an-
9 ticipated period of time such waiver will be
10 in effect, and the disaster assistance offices
11 within the Federal Emergency Manage-
12 ment Agency to which such waiver shall
13 apply; and

14 (ii) update the information relating to
15 such waiver, as applicable.

16 (4) GAO REVIEW OF WAIVER OF INFORMATION
17 COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
20 Comptroller General of the United States shall
21 issue a report describing the benefits and poten-
22 tial risks associated with authorizing the waiver
23 of the information collection requirements de-
24 scribed in paragraph (3).

1 (B) CONTENTS.—The report required
2 under subparagraph (A) shall include an assess-
3 ment of the extent to which a waiver described
4 in paragraph (3) would—

5 (i) affect the paperwork burden for in-
6 dividuals, small businesses, State, local,
7 and Tribal governments, and other per-
8 sons;

9 (ii) affect the consistent application of
10 Federal laws relating to—

11 (I) privacy and confidentiality;

12 (II) security of information; and

13 (III) access to information; and

14 (iii) encourage or deter a State or
15 other entity from participating in the vol-
16 untary collection of information for the du-
17 ration of a major disaster or emergency.

18 (d) USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may per-
20 mit a Federal agency other than a disaster assist-
21 ance agency listed in subparagraphs (A) through
22 (D) of subsection (f)(3) to use the unified disaster
23 application system established under subsection (a)
24 for the purpose of facilitating disaster-related assist-

1 ance if such agency enters into an agreement con-
2 taining the terms described in paragraph (2).

3 (2) AGENCY AGREEMENT.—An agreement en-
4 tered into under paragraph (1) shall contain the fol-
5 lowing terms:

6 (A) The Federal agency shall—

7 (i) collect, share, maintain, and use
8 disaster assistance information in compli-
9 ance with this section and any policies of
10 the Federal Emergency Management
11 Agency and any information protection and
12 use policies of such Federal agency; and

13 (ii) train any personnel granted access
14 to disaster assistance information on the
15 rules of behavior established by the Admin-
16 istrator under subsection (b)(3).

17 (B) In the event of any unauthorized dis-
18 closure of disaster assistance information, the
19 Federal agency shall—

20 (i) notify the Administrator within 24
21 hours of discovering any such unauthorized
22 disclosure;

23 (ii) cooperate fully with the Adminis-
24 trator in the investigation and remediation
25 of any such disclosure;

1 (iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution
2 of a person responsible for such disclosure;
3 and

4 (iv) assume the responsibility for any
5 compensation, civil liability, or other reme-
6 diation measures, whether awarded by a
7 judgment of a court or agreed as a com-
8 promise of any potential claims by or on
9 behalf of an applicant, including by obtain-
10 ing credit monitoring and remediation
11 services, for an improper disclosure that
12 is—

13 (I) caused, directly or indirectly,
14 by the acts or omissions of officers,
15 employees, and contractors of the
16 agency; or

17 (II) from any electronic system
18 of records that is created or main-
19 tained by the agency pursuant to sec-
20 tion 552a(e) of title 5, United States
21 Code.

22 (3) PUBLICATION OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.—
23 The Administrator shall publish an agency agree-
24 ment entered into under this subsection on the same

1 website as the unified disaster application system es-
2 tablished under subsection (a).

3 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The sharing and use
4 of disaster assistance information that is subject to the
5 requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States
6 Code, by disaster assistance agencies and block grant re-
7 cipients—

8 (1) shall not be—

9 (A) construed as a matching program for
10 purposes of section 552a(a)(8) of such title; or

11 (B) subject to the remaining computer
12 matching provisions of section 552a of such
13 title; and

14 (2) shall be in addition to any other law pro-
15 viding for the sharing or use of such information.

16 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant”
18 means—

19 (A) a person who applies for disaster as-
20 sistance from a disaster assistance program;
21 and

22 (B) a person on whose behalf a person de-
23 scribed in subparagraph (A) has applied for dis-
24 aster assistance.

1 (2) BLOCK GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term
2 “block grant recipient” means a State, local govern-
3 ment, or Tribal government that receives assistance
4 through the disaster assistance program described in
5 paragraph (5)(B)(i).

6 (3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.—The term
7 “disaster assistance agency” means—

8 (A) the Federal Emergency Management
9 Agency;

10 (B) the Department of Housing and
11 Urban Development;

12 (C) the Small Business Administration;

13 (D) the Department of Agriculture; and

14 (E) any other Federal agency that the Ad-
15 ministrator permits to use the unified disaster
16 application system under subsection (d).

17 (4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The
18 term “disaster assistance information” includes any
19 personal, demographic, biographical, geographical,
20 financial information, or other information that a
21 disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient is
22 authorized to collect, maintain, share, or use to proc-
23 ess an application for disaster assistance or other-
24 wise carry out a disaster assistance program.

1 (5) DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The
2 term “disaster assistance program” means—

3 (A) any program that provides assistance
4 to individuals and households under title IV or
5 title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
6 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170
7 et seq.); or

8 (B) any other assistance program carried
9 out by a disaster assistance agency that pro-
10 vides assistance to an individual, household, or
11 organization related to a major disaster or
12 emergency declared under section 401 or 501 of
13 such Act, including—

14 (i) assistance for activities related to
15 disaster relief, long-term recovery, restora-
16 tion of infrastructure and housing, eco-
17 nomic revitalization, and mitigation that
18 are authorized under title I of the Housing
19 and Community Development Act of 1974
20 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

21 (ii) any loan that is authorized under
22 section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15
23 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

24 (iii) the distribution of food benefit al-
25 lotments as authorized under section 412

1 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
2 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
3 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp
4 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

5 **SEC. 202. UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL AS-**
6 **SISTANCE.**

7 (a) UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.—The Administrator
8 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall de-
9 velop and establish a universal application for direct Fed-
10 eral disaster assistance for individuals in areas impacted
11 by emergencies or disasters.

12 (b) CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT.—

13 (1) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sec-
14 tion, the Administrator shall consult with the fol-
15 lowing:

16 (A) The Director of the Office of Manage-
17 ment and Budget.

18 (B) The Administrator of the Small Busi-
19 ness Administration.

20 (C) The Secretary of Housing and Urban
21 Development.

22 (D) The Secretary of Agriculture.

23 (2) SUPPORT.—The entities described in para-
24 graph (1) shall provide prompt support to the Ad-

1 administrator of the Federal Emergency Management
2 Agency.

3 (c) SURVEY.—The application established under sub-
4 section (a) shall include a voluntary survey to collect the
5 demographic data of an applicant.

6 **SEC. 203. CLARIFYING DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.**

7 (a) AUTHORITY.—Paragraph (4) of section 312(b) of
8 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
9 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(b)(4)), as in effect on the
10 day after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthoriza-
11 tion Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254)—

12 (1) is restored and revived; and

13 (2) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(D) PROHIBITION ON INCOME THRESH-
16 OLD.—In carrying out this paragraph, no in-
17 come threshold may be applied to limit the eli-
18 gibility of a recipient from qualifying for a
19 waiver under this paragraph.

20 “(E) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph
21 shall apply to any major disaster or emergency
22 declared by the President under section 401 or
23 501, respectively, on or after January 1,
24 2016.”.

1 (b) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Section 312(b)(4)
2 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
3 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(b)(4)), as restored and
4 revived by subsection (a), shall not be construed to apply
5 to section 406, 408, or 409 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5172,
6 5174).

7 (c) FURTHER AMENDMENT.—Section 312(a) of the
8 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
9 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(a)) is amended by striking “or
10 any other source”.

11 **SEC. 204. CRISIS COUNSELING AND ADDICTION IN DISAS-**
12 **TERS.**

13 (a) CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE AND TRAIN-
14 ING.—Section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
15 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5183) is
16 amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) by inserting “, substance use, or alco-
19 hol use” after “private mental health”; and

20 (B) by inserting “, substance use, and al-
21 cohol use” after “relieve mental health”; and

22 (2) in subsection (b) by inserting “, substance
23 use, or alcohol use” before “organization providing”.

24 (b) REPORT ON CHANGES TO APPLICATION.—Not
25 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this

1 Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
2 ment Agency, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary
3 for Mental Health and Substance Use, the Director for
4 the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, and State al-
5 cohol and drug agencies, shall review, adjust, and report
6 to Congress any changes made to the application for as-
7 sistance under section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
8 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
9 5183) and to any other relevant guidance documents to
10 reflect the amendments made by this section.

11 (c) GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Comptroller
12 General of the United States shall conduct a review of the
13 assistance provided under the crisis counseling assistance
14 and training program established pursuant to section 416
15 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
16 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5183) and submit to Congress
17 a report describing—

18 (1) the duration of assistance provided to indi-
19 viduals under such program; and

20 (2) the compliance of the Administrator of the
21 Federal Emergency Management Agency with the
22 requirement that such assistance may only be used
23 for mental health, substance use, and alcohol use
24 problems caused or aggravated by a major disaster
25 or its aftermath.

1 (d) MANAGEMENT COSTS.—Section 324(b)(2) of the
2 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
3 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165b(b)(2)) is further amended by
4 adding at the end the following:

5 “(C) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.—A grantee
6 under section 408(f) may be reimbursed not
7 more than 12 percent of the total award
8 amount under each such section.

9 “(D) CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE,
10 TRAINING, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERV-
11 ICES.—A grantee and subgrantee, cumulatively,
12 may be reimbursed not more than 15 percent of
13 the total amount of the grant award under ei-
14 ther section 416 or 426.”.

15 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 408(f)(1) of
16 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
17 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174), is amended—

18 (1) by striking “(A) GRANT TO STATE.—” and
19 all that follows through “subsection (g),” and insert-
20 ing “Subject to subsection (g)”; and

21 (2) by striking subparagraph (B).

22 **SEC. 205. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert
24 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
25 (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “rendered uninhabitable” and
2 inserting “damaged by a major disaster”; and

3 (2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of
4 damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting
5 “damaged by a major disaster”.

6 (b) HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 408 of the Rob-
7 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may
13 provide financial assistance to individuals and
14 households whose primary residence, utilities, or
15 residential infrastructure are damaged by a
16 major disaster, for cost-effective hazard mitiga-
17 tion measures that reduce threats to life and
18 property, or future damage to such residence,
19 utilities, or infrastructure in future disasters.

20 “(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-
21 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided
22 under this paragraph shall not be required to
23 show that the assistance can be met through
24 other means, except insurance proceeds.”; and

25 (2) in subsection (h)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, finan-
2 cial assistance for hazard mitigation under sub-
3 section (c)(5)(A),” after “subsection
4 (c)(1)(A)(i)”;

5 (B) in paragraph (3) by striking “para-
6 graphs (1) and (2)” and inserting “paragraphs
7 (1), (2), and (3)”;

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—The maximum fi-
10 nancial assistance any individual or household may
11 receive under subsection (c)(5) shall be equivalent to
12 the amount set forth in paragraph (1) with respect
13 to a single major disaster.”.

14 **SEC. 206. FEMA EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(a) of the Robert T.
16 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 5170b(a)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (3)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (I) by striking “and”
20 at the end;

21 (B) in subparagraph (J) by striking the
22 period and inserting “; and”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(K) minor repairs up to habitability of
25 owner-occupied homes damaged by the disaster

1 in order for survivors to safely shelter in place,
2 subject to the availability of appropriations.”;
3 and

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

5 “(5) SHELTERING AND HOUSING OPTIONS.—

6 Not later than 15 days after a declaration of a
7 major disaster, the Federal coordinating officer shall
8 identify all sheltering and housing options available
9 under this section or section 408 to a State Gov-
10 ernor, or the designated State coordinating officer.

11 “(6) DEFINITION OF MINOR REPAIRS UP TO
12 HABITABILITY.—In this subsection, the term ‘minor
13 repairs up to habitability’ means the minimum
14 standards for permanent housing described in sec-
15 tion 576.403(c) of title 24, Code of Federal Regula-
16 tions (or successor regulations).”.

17 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
19 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall issue final
20 regulations to implement the amendments made by this
21 section.

22 **SEC. 207. DIRECT ASSISTANCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T.
24 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

1 (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)) is further amended by striking para-
2 graph (2) and inserting the following:

3 “(2) REPAIRS.—

4 “(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RE-
5 PAIRS.—The President may provide financial
6 assistance for the repair of owner-occupied pri-
7 vate residences, utilities, and residential infra-
8 structure (such as a private access route) dam-
9 aged by a major disaster, or with respect to in-
10 dividuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible
11 by a major disaster.

12 “(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The President
14 may provide direct assistance to individuals
15 and households who are unable to make
16 use of financial assistance under subpara-
17 graph (A) and when there is a lack of
18 available resources, for—

19 “(I) the repair of owner-occupied
20 private residences, utilities, and resi-
21 dential infrastructure (such as a pri-
22 vate access route) damaged by a
23 major disaster, or with respect to indi-
24 viduals with disabilities, rendered in-
25 accessible by a disaster; and

1 “(II) eligible hazard mitigation
2 measures that reduce the likelihood
3 and future damage to such residences,
4 utilities, and infrastructure.

5 “(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of as-
6 sistance under this subparagraph shall not
7 be eligible for assistance under paragraph
8 (1), unless otherwise determined by the
9 Administrator.

10 “(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-
11 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided
12 under this paragraph shall not be required to
13 show that the assistance can be met through
14 other means, except insurance proceeds.”.

15 (b) STATE ROLE.—Section 408(f) of the Robert T.
16 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 5174(f)) is further amended—

18 (1) by striking “subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4),
19 and (e)” each place it appears and inserting “para-
20 graphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (4) of subsection (c) and
21 subsection (e)”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking “subsection
23 (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), or (e)” and inserting “paragraph
24 (1)(B), (2)(B), or (4) of subsection (c) or subsection
25 (e)”.

1 **SEC. 208. ACCURATE INFORMATION TO DISASTER VICTIMS.**

2 The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-
3 agement Agency shall issue such regulations as are nec-
4 essary to ensure that an applicant for assistance under
5 section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
6 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) that has indi-
7 cated ownership of an insurance policy for a home or facil-
8 ity damaged by a major disaster declared under section
9 401 of such Act that is owned by such applicant does not
10 receive a notice that indicates a denial of assistance before
11 a final determination has been made regarding the ap-
12 proval or denial of a claim under such policy.

13 **SEC. 209. IMPROVED NOTICES FOR FEMA ASSISTANCE.**

14 (a) PERIOD OF ASSISTANCE.—Clauses (iii) and (iv)
15 of section 408(c)(1)(B) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
16 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
17 5174(c)(1)(B)) are amended by striking “18-month pe-
18 riod” and inserting “24-month period”.

19 (b) APPEALS.—The Administrator of the Federal
20 Emergency Management Agency shall revise section
21 206.115 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, to re-
22 quire the Federal Emergency Management Agency to pro-
23 vide to any applicant who appeals a determination of eligi-
24 bility of assistance—

1 (1) any documentation used to make such de-
2 termination, including any inspection documents
3 that exist;

4 (2) a description of—

5 (A) the reasons for such determination;
6 and

7 (B) recommended steps that could be
8 taken to remedy a determination of ineligibility,
9 including, as applicable, a list of additional doc-
10 umentation that the applicant may provide; and

11 (3) any inspection documents that exist not
12 later than 10 days after the completion of the in-
13 spection.

14 (c) NOTIFICATION OF OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The Ad-
15 ministrator shall ensure materials, notifications, and com-
16 munications to applicants for assistance under section 408
17 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
18 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) include information on
19 all Federal assistance, including Small Business Adminis-
20 tration disaster assistance, that may be available for indi-
21 viduals to assist in repairing or rebuilding private prop-
22 erty, including privately-owned roads and bridges.

23 (d) APPLICABILITY.—This section and the amend-
24 ment made by this section shall apply to funds appro-
25 priated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 210. COMMON SENSE DISPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE**
2 **FOR DISASTER VICTIMS.**

3 Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
4 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(k) DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In determining eligibility
8 for displacement assistance under this section, the
9 President may not consider insurance a duplication
10 of benefits for the purpose of applying section 312
11 of this Act.

12 “(2) DISPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—

13 In this section, the term ‘displacement assistance’
14 means assistance provided under this section for
15 food, water, first aid, personal hygiene items, baby
16 formula, breast feeding supplies, fuel for transpor-
17 tation, emergency supplies and to stay in a hotel or
18 motel, stay with family and friends, or for any other
19 available housing options.”.

20 **SEC. 211. STATE-MANAGED HOUSING AUTHORITY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408 of the Robert T.
22 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
23 (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (f)(3)—

25 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) by striking “A State” and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State”; and

4 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(ii) TRANSPARENCY.—The President
7 shall make public the criteria used to
8 evaluate applications under clause (i) and
9 determine if a State or Indian tribal gov-
10 ernment meets the criteria described in
11 subparagraph (B) to administer grants de-
12 scribed in paragraph (1)(A).”;

13 (B) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

14 (i) in subclause (I) by striking “;
15 and” and inserting a semicolon;

16 (ii) in subclause (II) by striking the
17 period at the end and inserting a semi-
18 colon; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(III) outline the approach of the
22 State to help disaster survivors create
23 a permanent housing plan; and

24 “(IV) outline the approach of the
25 State to provide individual disaster

1 survivors some choice of communities
2 and properties, as practicable.”;

3 (C) by striking subparagraph (F);

4 (D) by redesignating subparagraphs (G),
5 (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G),
6 (H), and (I), respectively; and

7 (E) in subparagraph (I), as so redesign-
8 nated—

9 (i) in clause (ii) by striking “Not later
10 than 2 years after the date of enactment
11 of this paragraph, the” and inserting
12 “The”; and

13 (ii) in clause (iii) by striking “2
14 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

15 (2) in subsection (g)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “para-
17 graph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and
18 (3)”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of as-
21 sistance provided under subsections (c)(1)(B),
22 (c)(2)(B), and (c)(4), the Federal share shall be not
23 less than 75 percent.”.

24 (b) GAO ASSESSMENT.—Upon the expiration of the
25 authority to carry out section 408(f) of the Robert T.

1 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
2 (42 U.S.C. 5174(f)) as a pilot program, the Comptroller
3 General of the United States shall issue a report on the
4 effectiveness, successes, and challenges of any pilot pro-
5 gram carried out pursuant to such section and make rec-
6 ommendations on how to improve the provision of assist-
7 ance under such section.

8 **SEC. 212. IMPROVED RENTAL ASSISTANCE.**

9 Section 408(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Robert T. Stafford
10 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
11 5174(c)(1)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “, including
12 local postdisaster rent increases,” after “accommodation
13 provided”.

14 **SEC. 213. ONLINE GUIDES FOR POSTDISASTER ASSIST-**
15 **ANCE.**

16 (a) **USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.**—Sec-
17 tion 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
18 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) in paragraph (7) by striking the period at
21 the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(8) postdisaster assistance.”.

24 (b) **GRANTS FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-**
25 **ANCE.**—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster

1 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131)

2 is amended by adding at the end the following:

3 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
4 ANCE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
6 Federal Emergency Management Agency may pro-
7 vide funding to a State agency established under
8 subsection (c) to establish, update, or operate a fully
9 accessible website to provide information relating to
10 post-disaster recovery funding and resources to a
11 community or an individual impacted by a major
12 disaster or emergency.

13 “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under
14 this subsection shall be—

15 “(A) managed by the State agency; and

16 “(B) suitable for the residents of the State
17 of the State agency.

18 “(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may pro-
19 vide funding to a State agency under this subsection
20 to establish a website that contains only 1 or more
21 of the following:

22 “(A) A list of Federal, State, and local
23 sources of postdisaster recovery funding or as-
24 sistance that may be available to a community
25 after a major disaster or emergency.

1 “(B) A list of Federal, State, and local
2 sources of postdisaster recovery funding or as-
3 sistance that may be available to an individual
4 impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

5 “(C) A technical guide that lists and ex-
6 plains the costs and benefits of alternatives
7 available to a community to mitigate the im-
8 pacts of a major disaster or emergency and pre-
9 pare for sequential hazards such as flooding
10 after a wildfire.

11 “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that re-
12 ceives funding under this subsection shall cooperate
13 with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of
14 Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and Urban
15 Development, the Administrator of the Small Busi-
16 ness Administration, and the Administrator of the
17 Federal Emergency Management Agency in devel-
18 oping a website under this subsection.

19 “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives
20 funding to establish a website under this subsection
21 shall—

22 “(A) update the website not less than once
23 every 6 months; and

1 “(B) ensure that such website is compliant
2 with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of
3 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d).”.

4 **SEC. 214. CLARIFYING SHELTERING ASSISTANCE ELIGI-**
5 **BILITY.**

6 (a) SECTION 403.—Section 403 of the Robert T.
7 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(e) CLARIFICATION OF SHELTERING ASSISTANCE
11 ELIGIBILITY.—The Administrator shall not consider the
12 absence of a fixed, physical address as a disqualifying fac-
13 tor for individuals or households applying for non-con-
14 gregate sheltering assistance under this section, as long
15 as the individual or household applying for such assistance
16 can demonstrate, through alternative means as determined
17 by the Administrator, that such individual or household
18 was residing within the disaster-affected area at the time
19 of the disaster for which assistance is being applied for
20 through means, including shelter records or an affidavit.”.

21 (b) SECTION 408.—Section 408(c)(1) of the Robert
22 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
23 (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended by adding at the end the
24 following:

1 “(C) CLARIFICATION OF SHELTERING AS-
2 SISTANCE ELIGIBILITY.—The Administrator
3 shall not consider the absence of a fixed, phys-
4 ical address as a disqualifying factor for indi-
5 viduals or households applying for assistance
6 under this section, as long as the individual or
7 household applying for such assistance can
8 demonstrate, through alternative means as de-
9 termined by the Administrator, that such indi-
10 vidual or household was residing within the dis-
11 aster-affected area at the time of the disaster
12 for which assistance is being applied for
13 through means, including shelter records or an
14 affidavit.”.

15 **SEC. 215. ACCESS TO LIFESAVING NON-CONGREGATE SHEL-**
16 **TERING.**

17 The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-
18 agement Agency shall ensure individuals and households
19 that qualify for non-congregate sheltering assistance
20 under section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
21 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) are
22 not required to provide a credit card or security deposit
23 to access such sheltering assistance.

1 **SEC. 216. ASSISTANCE FOR TOTAL LOSS.**

2 Section 408(c)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
3 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
4 5174(c)(3)) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
6 paragraph (C); and

7 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(B) TOTAL LOSS.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
11 total loss of an owner occupied residence,
12 subject to section 312, and notwith-
13 standing subsection (h) of such section, if
14 the cost of direct assistance under para-
15 graph (1)(B) exceeds the cost of replace-
16 ment of such residence, the President may
17 offer financial assistance for replacement
18 of such residence, including any necessary
19 site preparation work such as land surveys.

20 “(ii) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—In any
21 case in which the President is authorized
22 under clause (i) to provide financial assist-
23 ance for replacement but does not offer
24 such assistance, the President shall provide
25 to Congress a report explaining the ration-

1 ale for the decision not to provide such as-
2 sistance.”.

3 **SEC. 217. REVIEW OF DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE TO INDIV-**
4 **VIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

5 (a) WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 60 days after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
7 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordina-
8 tion and consultation with the National Council on Dis-
9 ability, shall convene a working group of disability commu-
10 nity stakeholders and policy experts to review and inform
11 the Agency’s provision of individual assistance to individ-
12 uals with disabilities.

13 (b) FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
14 than 90 days after the convening of the working group
15 established pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator
16 shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and In-
17 frastructure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
18 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
19 of the Senate a report containing findings and rec-
20 ommendations regarding the adequacy, efficiency, and de-
21 livery of individual assistance to individuals with disabil-
22 ities.

1 **TITLE III—MITIGATION**
2 **REFORMS**

3 **SEC. 301. PREAPPROVED PROJECT MITIGATION LIST.**

4 Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
5 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(f) PREAPPROVED PROJECT MITIGATION LIST.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to carry out
9 projects pursuant to the requirements of this sub-
10 section, a State or Indian tribal government shall, in
11 consultation with appropriately licensed professionals
12 (as such term is defined in section 409(b)(5)), de-
13 velop and submit to the President a preapproved
14 project mitigation list.

15 “(2) SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT.—If a State or
16 Indian tribal government does not submit a list
17 under paragraph (1) not later than 3 years after the
18 date of enactment of the FEMA Act of 2025, the
19 State or Indian tribal government shall not be eligi-
20 ble for an increased Federal share under subsection
21 (c)(3) of section 409 for any assistance provided
22 under such section.

23 “(3) CONTENTS.—A preapproved mitigation list
24 described in paragraph (1) shall include—

1 “(A) a list of projects designed to mitigate
2 damage caused by natural disasters that may
3 occur in such State or the jurisdiction of the
4 Indian tribal government, as applicable;

5 “(B) with respect to a State—

6 “(i) not fewer than 1 project for each
7 county or county equivalent in the State;
8 or

9 “(ii) a written description explaining
10 why a county or county equivalent does not
11 have a proposed project in the list;

12 “(C) a detailed description of each project
13 and the benefits of such project; and

14 “(D) an estimated cost for each project.

15 “(4) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A project is eligible
16 to be included in a preapproved project mitigation
17 list described in paragraph (1) if—

18 “(A) such project is eligible for assistance
19 under section 203, 205, or 404; and

20 “(B) the project is consistent with the re-
21 quirements of section 322, including the local
22 hazard mitigation plan requirement under such
23 section.

24 “(5) PEER REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATIONS.—

1 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President
2 shall establish a peer review process for a non-
3 partisan panel of at least 30 individuals with
4 expertise related to emergency management,
5 natural hazard mitigation for a wide variety of
6 hazards, including flooding, tornadoes, wildfire,
7 and earthquakes, or insurance underwriting to
8 conduct peer reviews of—

9 “(i) the projects contained in a list
10 submitted under this subsection; and

11 “(ii) previously denied projects resub-
12 mitted for approval and inclusion in a
13 preapproved project mitigation list.

14 “(B) PEER REVIEW PANEL REQUIRE-
15 MENTS.—

16 “(i) TERM OF SERVICE.—The term of
17 service for a member of the panel shall be
18 2 years.

19 “(ii) LIMITATION ON SERVICE.—An
20 individual may not serve consecutive terms
21 on the panel.

22 “(iii) SOLICITATION.—Qualified indi-
23 viduals shall elect to serve on the panel fol-
24 lowing a solicitation by the President for
25 prospective panel members.

1 “(C) DUTIES.—In establishing the peer re-
2 view process under subparagraph (A), the
3 President shall require that the peer review
4 panel—

5 “(i) determine whether each project in
6 a list submitted by a State or Indian tribal
7 government under paragraph (1) is cost ef-
8 fective and designed to reduce injuries, loss
9 of life, and damage and destruction of
10 property, including damage to critical serv-
11 ices and facilities under the jurisdiction of
12 the State and or Indian tribal government;
13 and

14 “(ii) recommend to the President ap-
15 proval or denial of each such project not
16 later than 3 months after the submission
17 of such list.

18 “(D) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Presi-
19 dent shall make publicly available, in an acces-
20 sible format on the website of the Federal
21 Emergency Management Agency each project
22 approved and included in a preapproved project
23 mitigation list by peer review under this para-
24 graph.

1 “(E) APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER 10 OF
2 TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Chapter 10 of
3 title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to
4 activities carried out under this paragraph.

5 “(6) DETERMINATION OF LIST APPROVAL.—

6 “(A) INITIAL DETERMINATION.—Not later
7 than 1 month after receiving the recommenda-
8 tions under subparagraph (B)(ii), the President
9 shall—

10 “(i) approve or deny each project in
11 the list submitted by a State or Indian
12 tribal government;

13 “(ii) for any list that contains a
14 project that is approved, approve the
15 preapproved project mitigation list as con-
16 taining only the projects approved under
17 clause (i); and

18 “(iii) for any list that contains a
19 project that is denied, notify the applicable
20 State or Indian tribal government, includ-
21 ing information on the reasons for such a
22 denial and any information necessary for
23 the State or Indian tribal government to
24 update such project for resubmission.

1 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPROVAL.—

2 In approving a project under this subparagraph
3 (A)(i), the President shall consider the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(i) The findings and recommenda-
6 tions of the peer reviews carried out under
7 paragraph (3).

8 “(ii) The degree to which the projects
9 contained in the list reduce deaths, inju-
10 ries, and property damage by reducing the
11 risks associated with natural disasters.

12 “(iii) The extent of the need of the
13 entity to carry out the projects contained
14 in the list and the potential of such
15 projects to mitigate hazards to the United
16 States.

17 “(C) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Presi-
18 dent may provide technical assistance to a State
19 or Indian tribal government with respect to
20 which a project was denied under subparagraph
21 (A)(i) to assist such State or Indian tribal gov-
22 ernment to resubmit the project for approval
23 under this subsection.

24 “(D) DEFAULT APPROVAL.—If the Presi-
25 dent does not make a determination or provide

1 notification under this paragraph, as applicable,
2 with respect to a list submitted under para-
3 graph (1) not later than 1 month after the
4 peer-review panel submits recommendations
5 under paragraph (3)(B)(ii), such list shall—

6 “(i) be deemed to be approved under
7 this subsection; and

8 “(ii) consist of only the projects rec-
9 ommended for approval by the peer review
10 panel under paragraph (3)(B)(ii).

11 “(E) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROJECTS.—

12 Any project that was approved by the Adminis-
13 trator but not funded under section 203 or 404
14 of the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency
15 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c) prior
16 to the date of enactment of the FEMA Act of
17 2025 shall be considered a preapproved project
18 for the purposes of this subsection.

19 “(F) RESUBMITTAL OF DENIED
20 PROJECT.—In any case in which a project in a
21 preapproved project mitigation list is not ap-
22 proved, the State or Indian tribal government
23 may redevelop and resubmit such project for
24 approval at any time.

1 “(7) EFFECT OF LIST APPROVAL.—A project
2 contained in a list approved under this subsection
3 shall be considered approved under section 203, 205,
4 or 404, as applicable, and shall not be subject to any
5 additional approval requirements, procedures, or re-
6 views under any such section. The President shall
7 accept revised cost estimates for projects listed in
8 the preapproved project mitigation list so long as the
9 revised cost is necessary to complete the project as
10 described in such list, as determined by the Presi-
11 dent.

12 “(8) ADDITIONS OF PROJECTS TO LIST.—A
13 State or Indian tribal government that has a list ap-
14 proved under this subsection may submit an updated
15 list 2 years after the date on which such list is ap-
16 proved, and every 2 years thereafter, that contains
17 additional proposed projects. The President shall en-
18 sure that each additional project contained in such
19 updated list be subject to the approval project, in-
20 cluding the peer-review process, under this sub-
21 section.

22 “(9) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
23 this subsection shall be construed to—

24 “(A) limit the discretion of a State or an
25 Indian tribal government to prioritize or ad-

1 vance projects included in a mitigation plan ap-
2 proved by the President; or

3 “(B) affect the eligibility of a hazard miti-
4 gation project for consideration—

5 “(i) under any other provision of this
6 section; or

7 “(ii) any other hazard mitigation pro-
8 gram carried out by the President.”.

9 **SEC. 302. REDUCING DISASTER COSTS AND PROTECTING**
10 **LIVES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Robert T.
12 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 5133) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (c) by striking “or local gov-
15 ernment” each place it appears;

16 (2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(d) LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTION.—

19 “(1) SUBALLOCATIONS.—Each State that re-
20 ceives assistance under this section shall distribute
21 not less than 50 percent of the funds allocated under
22 subsection (f) to local governments carrying out
23 mitigation projects under this section.

24 “(2) DISTRIBUTION AND REPORTING.—Not
25 later than 60 days after receiving assistance under

1 this section, the State shall distribute the suballoca-
2 tions pursuant to paragraph (1) or, in cases in
3 which the assistance would be used for a project that
4 is not contained in a preapproved project mitigation
5 list under section 322(f), the State shall provide the
6 President with details on the mitigation measures
7 for which such funds will be used by the local gov-
8 ernment.”;

9 (3) in subsection (e)(1)(B)—

10 (A) in clause (iii) by striking “or” at the
11 end;

12 (B) in clause (iv) by striking the period at
13 the end and inserting “; or”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(v) to develop preapproved project
16 mitigation lists pursuant to section
17 322(f).”;

18 (4) in subsection (f)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “on a
20 competitive basis for mitigation activities that
21 are cost effective and in accordance with the
22 criteria in subsection (g)” and inserting “to
23 States and Indian tribal governments through
24 the allocation under paragraphs (2) and (4) for

1 mitigation activities that are cost-effective and
2 in accordance with subsection (g)’’;

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(2) ALLOCATION.—In providing financial as-
6 sistance under this section, the President shall allo-
7 cate available funds for a fiscal year among eligible
8 States by formula as follows:

9 “(A) 40 percent of available funds shall be
10 distributed equally among each eligible State.

11 “(B) 20 percent of available funds shall be
12 distributed among each eligible State based on
13 a sliding scale that provides the highest share
14 of such funds to States that have the most vul-
15 nerability to natural hazards in the critical in-
16 frastructure of such States.

17 “(C) 20 percent of available funds shall be
18 distributed among each eligible State based on
19 a sliding scale that provides a higher share to
20 States that have a higher population and a
21 lower median income, using data from the most
22 recent decennial census.

23 “(D) 20 percent of available funds shall be
24 distributed among each eligible State based on
25 a sliding scale that provides the highest share

1 to States with the highest amount of approved
2 projects located in communities that meet the
3 eligibility criteria described in section 301 of
4 the Public Works and Economic Development
5 Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161) or rural areas,
6 as defined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated
7 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
8 1991(a)).”;

9 (C) in paragraph (3)(B) by striking “on a
10 competitive basis”; and

11 (D) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(4) TRIBES.—Under this section, the Presi-
13 dent shall ensure that the amount of financial assist-
14 ance made available to Indian tribal governments for
15 a fiscal year is not less than \$75,000,000.”;

16 (5) in subsection (g)—

17 (A) by striking “In determining whether to
18 provide technical and financial assistance to a
19 State or local government under this section,”
20 and inserting “In determining eligibility for
21 technical and financial assistance under this
22 section,”; and

23 (B) by striking “, and take into account—
24 ” and all that follows through the period at the
25 end and inserting a period;

1 (6) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “mitigation
2 activities approved by the President” and inserting
3 “a mitigation activity funded under this section”;

4 (7) in subsection (i)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “409,”
6 after “408,”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (3) by inserting “409,”
8 after “408,”; and

9 (8) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(n) PROJECT ADMINISTRATION.—A State or local
11 government under this section may provide funding for
12 projects—

13 “(1) executed through a partnership established
14 between 2 or more eligible entities to carry out a
15 project or similar projects;

16 “(2) undertaken by a private nonprofit facility;

17 “(3) undertaken as part of a public-private
18 partnership; or

19 “(4) executed through a combination of other
20 Federal mitigation programs, including the Federal
21 mitigation program under section 404.”.

22 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
24 issue policy and guidance to implement the amendments
25 made by this section. Any existing regulations, policies,

1 or guidance that are no longer applicable as a result of
2 the amendments contained in this section or that conflict
3 with the letter or intent of such amendments are deemed
4 rescinded.

5 **SEC. 303. RESILIENT BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITIES.**

6 (a) PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section
7 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
8 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is further amended
9 by inserting after subsection (l) the following:

10 “(m) LATEST PUBLISHED EDITIONS DEFINED.—
11 For purposes of subsections (e)(1)(B)(iv) and (g)(10), the
12 term ‘latest published editions’ means, with respect to rel-
13 evant consensus-based codes, specifications, and stand-
14 ards, the 2 most recently published editions.”.

15 (b) HAZARD MITIGATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND
16 PROGRAM.—Section 205(f)(5) of the Robert T. Stafford
17 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
18 5135(f)(5)) is amended—

19 (1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “ES-
20 TABLISHING” and insert “IMPLEMENTING”;

21 (2) by striking “establish” and insert “imple-
22 ment”;

23 (3) by inserting “2” after “latest”; and

24 (4) by inserting “, including any amendments
25 made by State, local, Tribal, or territorial govern-

1 ments to such codes, specifications, and standards,”
2 after “standards”.

3 (c) RESIDENTIAL RETROFIT AND RESILIENCE PILOT
4 PROGRAM.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of
6 the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall
7 carry out a residential resilience pilot program
8 through the program established under section 203
9 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
10 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to make
11 available assistance to States and local governments
12 for the purpose of providing grants to individuals for
13 residential resilience retrofits.

14 (2) AMOUNT OF FUNDS.—The Administrator
15 may use not more than 10 percent across allocations
16 of the assistance made available to applicants on an
17 annual basis under section 203 of the Robert T.
18 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to provide assistance under
20 this subsection.

21 (3) TIMELINE.—The Administrator shall estab-
22 lish the pilot program under this subsection not later
23 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act
24 and the program shall terminate on September 30,
25 2028.

1 (4) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
2 gram under this subsection, the Administrator shall
3 ensure that a State or local government receiving as-
4 sistance under the program provides grants to indi-
5 viduals that demonstrate financial need.

6 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
8 shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
9 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
10 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
11 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report that in-
12 cludes—

13 (A) a summary of the grant awards and
14 projects carried out under this subsection;

15 (B) a detailed compilation of results
16 achieved by the grant awards and projects car-
17 ried out under this subsection, including the
18 number of homes receiving retrofits, the types
19 and average costs of retrofits, demographic in-
20 formation for participants in the program, and
21 estimate avoidance in disaster impacts and Fed-
22 eral disaster payments as a result of the grant
23 investments; and

1 (C) any identified implementation chal-
2 lenges and recommendations for improvements
3 to the pilot program.

4 (6) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall only
5 apply to amounts appropriated on or after the date
6 of enactment of this Act.

7 (7) RESIDENTIAL RESILIENT RETROFITS DE-
8 FINED.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—In this subsection, the
10 term “residential resilient retrofits” means a
11 project that—

12 (i) is designed to increase the resil-
13 ience of an existing home or residence
14 using mitigation measures which the Ad-
15 ministrator determines reduce damage and
16 impacts from natural disaster hazards and
17 risks that are most likely to occur in the
18 area where the home is located; and

19 (ii) to the extent applicable, are con-
20 sistent with the 2 most recently published
21 editions of relevant consensus-based codes,
22 specifications, and standards, including
23 any amendments made by State, local,
24 tribal, or territorial governments to such
25 codes, specifications, and standards that

1 incorporate the latest hazard-resistant de-
2 signs and establish criteria for the design,
3 construction, and maintenance of residen-
4 tial structures and facilities that may be
5 eligible for assistance under the Robert T.
6 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
7 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)
8 for the purpose of protecting the health,
9 safety, and general welfare of the build-
10 ings’ users against disasters.

11 (B) INCLUSION.—In this subsection, the
12 term “residential resilient retrofits” includes—

13 (i) elevations of homes and elevations
14 of utilities within and around structures to
15 mitigate damages;

16 (ii) floodproofing measures;

17 (iii) the construction of tornado-safe
18 rooms;

19 (iv) seismic retrofits;

20 (v) wildfire retrofit and mitigation
21 measures;

22 (vi) wind retrofits, including roof re-
23 placements, hurricane straps, and tie-
24 downs; and

1 (vii) any other measures that meet the
2 requirements of paragraph (1), as deter-
3 mined by the Administrator.

4 **SEC. 304. STRENGTHENING HAZARD RISK REDUCTION.**

5 (a) IMPROVED HAZARD MITIGATION DELIVERY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 404(c)(2) of the
7 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
8 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(c)(2)) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (A) by striking “The President” and all
11 that follows through “as a pilot program.”; and

12 (B) by striking “The criteria shall” insert-
13 ing “The President shall establish criteria for
14 the approval of applications submitted under
15 paragraph (1) that”.

16 (2) PROJECT CONSOLIDATION.—Section 404 of
17 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
18 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is amended
19 by adding at the end the following:

20 “(h) MITIGATION PROJECT CONSOLIDATIONS.—

21 “(1) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Notwithstanding
22 section 312 and any regulations implementing such
23 section, assistance provided under this section for a
24 mitigation project may be used in combination
25 with—

1 “(A) assistance provided under section
2 203; and

3 “(B) any other Federal assistance provided
4 for such project.

5 “(2) FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—
6 For purposes of the Federal share requirements of
7 a mitigation project under this section—

8 “(A) any Federal assistance provided
9 under section 203 for such project shall be ap-
10 plied toward the Federal share required under
11 this section; and

12 “(B) any non-Federal funds for such miti-
13 gation project that are specified to meet the
14 Federal share requirements of section 203 may
15 be used to meet the non-Federal share require-
16 ments under this section.

17 “(3) TOTAL FEDERAL SHARE.—Federal assist-
18 ance provided for a mitigation project under this
19 section and section 203 may not exceed the total
20 Federal share for such project.

21 “(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
22 this section shall—

23 “(A) affect the cost-share requirement of a
24 hazard mitigation measure under this section;

1 “(B) affect the eligibility criteria for a haz-
2 ard mitigation measure under this section or
3 section 203; or

4 “(C) affect the cost share requirements of
5 a federally authorized hazard mitigation
6 project.”.

7 (b) PREPAYMENT RELIEF FOR HAZARD MITIGA-
8 TION.—Section 404(e) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
9 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
10 5170c(e)) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(e) ADVANCE ASSISTANCE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide
13 the total Federal share of the estimated cost of haz-
14 ard mitigation measures to a State grantee eligible
15 for a grant under this section before eligible costs
16 are incurred.

17 “(2) HOME RETROFITS.—The Administrator
18 shall offer to advance assistance to applicants from
19 such Federal share for purposes of home retrofits to
20 improve resilience, including home elevations, total-
21 ing the total amount of the estimated Federal share
22 of such project before eligible costs are incurred.”.

23 (c) PREAPPROVED PROJECT MITIGATION LIST.—
24 Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

1 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is further
2 amended by adding at the end the following:

3 “(i) PREAPPROVED PROJECT MITIGATION LIST.—A
4 recipient of hazard mitigation assistance provided under
5 this section may use such assistance to develop
6 preapproved project mitigation lists pursuant to section
7 322(f).”.

8 (d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
9 section shall apply to a major disaster or emergency de-
10 clared under such Act before the date of enactment of this
11 Act for which the period for processing requests for assist-
12 ance has not ended as of the date of enactment of this
13 Act.

14 **SEC. 305. UTILITY RESILIENCY.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403 of the Robert T.
16 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amended by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(e) ELECTRIC UTILITIES.—

20 “(1) HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.—An
21 electric utility may carry out cost-effective hazard
22 mitigation activities jointly or otherwise in combina-
23 tion with activities for the restoration of power car-
24 ried out with assistance provided under this section.

1 “(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL ASSIST-
2 ANCE.—In any case in which an electric utility facil-
3 ity receives assistance under this section for the
4 emergency restoration of power, the receipt of such
5 assistance shall not render such facility ineligible for
6 any hazard mitigation assistance under section 406
7 for which such facility is otherwise eligible.”.

8 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
9 section (a) shall only apply to amounts appropriated on
10 or after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 306. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO HAZARD MITIGA-**
12 **TION REVOLVING LOAN FUND.**

13 Section 205 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
14 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5135) is
15 amended—

16 (1) in subsection (c)(2)(A) by inserting “hazard
17 mitigation, resilience, and” before “emergency man-
18 agement”; and

19 (2) in subsection (f)(1)(C) by striking “2” and
20 inserting “4”.

21 **SEC. 307. STREAMLINED HAZARD MITIGATION APPLICA-**
22 **TION PROCESS.**

23 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
25 Management Agency shall establish a consolidated grant

1 application form for hazard mitigation funds provided
2 under sections 203, 205, and 404 of the Robert T. Staf-
3 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
4 U.S.C. 5133; 5135; 5170c), to—

5 (1) facilitate the administration of hazard miti-
6 gation funds established under such sections;

7 (2) facilitate the administration of hazard miti-
8 gation funds established under the National Flood
9 Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) and
10 section 322(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
11 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as added by
12 this Act);

13 (3) ensure the provision of hazard mitigation
14 assistance in accordance with applicable laws and
15 regulations;

16 (4) reduce the administrative burden of the ap-
17 plication and review process; and

18 (5) expedite the execution of grant agreements
19 and the disbursement of funds.

20 **SEC. 308. STUDY AND REPORT ON MITIGATION BENEFITS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
22 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a study to
23 evaluate the effectiveness, long-term cost savings, and
24 strategic impact of nationwide hazard mitigation activities
25 funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

1 (b) OBJECTIVES.—In conducting the study required
2 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall assess how
3 the mitigation programs of the Federal Emergency Man-
4 agement Agency—

5 (1) reduce Federal and non-Federal expendi-
6 tures for disaster response and recovery;

7 (2) enhance community preparedness for nat-
8 ural hazards;

9 (3) improve the availability and affordability of
10 hazard-related insurance;

11 (4) support continuity of operations for critical
12 services and infrastructure; and

13 (5) generate long-term cost savings and meas-
14 urable returns on investment.

15 (c) METHODOLOGY.—The study under subsection (a)
16 shall include—

17 (1) quantitative and qualitative analysis of
18 avoided losses;

19 (2) evaluations of the effect of hazard mitiga-
20 tion on community-level risk ratings, actuarial as-
21 sessments, and insurance penetration;

22 (3) case studies from diverse geographic regions
23 and hazard types; and

1 (4) examinations of the role of mitigation activi-
2 ties in reducing Federal disaster response and recov-
3 ery costs.

4 (d) DATA SOURCES.—In carrying out the study
5 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall use data
6 from—

7 (1) Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies;

8 (2) independent third-party assessments and
9 academic studies; and

10 (3) internal program evaluations and disaster
11 recovery records.

12 (e) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
13 subsection (a), the Administrator may consult with—

14 (1) the Comptroller General of the United
15 States;

16 (2) the Director of the National Institute of
17 Standards and Technology;

18 (3) State, local, Tribal, and territorial govern-
19 ments; and

20 (4) relevant academic and research institutions.

21 (f) INTEGRATION WITH HAZARD MITIGATION AS-
22 SISTANCE PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall—

23 (1) ensure that the findings identified in the
24 study conducted under this section are incorporated,
25 as appropriate, into the policies, guidance, and ad-

1 ministration of the hazard mitigation assistance pro-
2 grams carried out under the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
3 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
4 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

5 (2) issue guidance to States on how to evaluate
6 and, where practicable, incorporate such findings
7 into State hazard mitigation plans required under
8 section 322 of such Act.

9 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
11 after the date of enactment of this Act and annually
12 thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the
13 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
14 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
15 of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland
16 Security and Governmental Affairs and the Com-
17 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate a report de-
18 tailing—

19 (A) the findings of the study;

20 (B) recommendations for improving pro-
21 gram design, targeting, and oversight; and

22 (C) recommendations for legislative and
23 administrative actions.

24 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The Administrator shall
25 make each report submitted under paragraph (1)

1 publicly available on the website of the Federal
2 Emergency Management Agency not later than 60
3 days after the submission of such report.

4 (h) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND ONGOING REVIEW.—

5 (1) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Not later than 2 years
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
7 trator shall make the results of the initial study re-
8 quired under subsection (a) publicly available in a
9 searchable, user-friendly, and fully accessible format
10 on the website of the Federal Emergency Manage-
11 ment Agency.

12 (2) CONTENTS.—The published data under
13 paragraph (1) shall include—

14 (A) summarized findings and datasets, ex-
15 cluding any information that would compromise
16 national security or privacy;

17 (B) visualizations and geographic
18 mappings of mitigation outcomes; and

19 (C) clear explanations of methodology,
20 data sources, and limitations.

21 (i) ANNUAL UPDATES.—The Administrator shall
22 conduct the study described in subsection (a) on an annual
23 basis, incorporating the most recent available data, up-
24 dates to methodology, and stakeholder feedback.

1 **SEC. 309. DISTRESSED AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

2 Section 203(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
3 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(a))
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 “(a) DEFINITION OF SMALL IMPOVERISHED COMMU-
6 NITY.—In this section, the term ‘small impoverished com-
7 munity’ means a community that meets the eligibility cri-
8 teria described in to section 301 of the Public Works and
9 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161) or
10 a rural area, as defined in section 343(a) of the Consoli-
11 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1991(a)).”.

13 **TITLE IV—TRANSPARENCY AND**
14 **ACCOUNTABILITY**

15 **SEC. 401. GAO REVIEW OF FEMA TRANSITION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, and every 6 months there-
18 after, the Comptroller General of the United States
19 shall—

20 (1) conduct a review of the transition of the
21 Federal Emergency Management Agency under title
22 I; and

23 (2) provide a briefing on the results of the re-
24 view conducted under paragraph (1) to the Com-
25 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the
26 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of

1 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland
2 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

3 (b) SCOPE.—In conducting the reviews required
4 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall assess
5 the following:

6 (1) The continued processing of grants for con-
7 structing, reconstructing, repairing, restoring, or re-
8 placing eligible facilities.

9 (2) The establishment of the Federal Emer-
10 gency Management Agency as a cabinet-level inde-
11 pendent establishment in the executive branch to
12 evaluate whether the transition complied with Fed-
13 eral laws relating to labor, procurement, information
14 management, and related statutes.

15 (3) The status of the contractual obligations of
16 the Agency.

17 (4) Interdepartmental coordination, establish-
18 ment of new memorandums of understanding, and
19 assistance from the Department of Homeland Secu-
20 rity to ensure that the Department fulfills all statu-
21 tory requirements to ensure optimal agency perform-
22 ance during the transition.

23 (5) Costs associated with the transition of per-
24 sonnel, equipment, furnishings, and related contents
25 over the course of the transition.

1 (6) Personnel retention related to the transi-
2 tion.

3 (7) Physical and technological infrastructure
4 needs and which of the needs have been met, to en-
5 sure that the Agency has been provided with the
6 necessary resources to carry out the mission of the
7 Agency, following the transition of the Agency.

8 (8) Programmatic operations during the transi-
9 tion of the Agency.

10 (9) Communication operations to monitor con-
11 tinued connectivity with stakeholders, including
12 State emergency managers, private nonprofit organi-
13 zations, and other related parties, during the transi-
14 tion.

15 (10) Engineer personnel levels at the Agency.

16 (11) Contracts entered into with licensed engi-
17 neering professionals in States that are in geo-
18 graphic areas in which a major disaster has recently
19 been declared under section 401 of the Robert T.
20 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
21 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

22 (12) Best practices and lessons learned during
23 the transition, in coordination with the Adminis-
24 trator of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
25 cy and any other key personnel of the Agency.

1 (c) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective
2 on the date that is 36 months after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, or an earlier date agreed upon by the Comp-
4 troller General and the committees of Congress specified
5 in subsection (a).

6 **SEC. 402. TRANSPARENCY AND ONLINE ACCOUNTABILITY.**

7 (a) SUBPAGE FOR TRANSPARENCY OF DISASTER AS-
8 SISTANCE.—

9 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPOSITORY FOR RE-
10 PORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Of-
11 fice of Management and Budget, in consultation
12 with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of
13 each covered Federal agency, shall establish a
14 subpage within the website established under section
15 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Trans-
16 parency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) to pub-
17 lish the information required to be made available to
18 the public under this subsection.

19 (2) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION BY FEDERAL
20 AGENCIES.—Not later than 30 days after the end of
21 a calendar quarter, each covered Federal agency
22 that made disaster assistance available to an eligible
23 recipient during such quarter shall, in coordination
24 with the Director of the Office of Management and
25 Budget, make available to the public on the subpage

1 established under paragraph (1) the information de-
2 scribed in paragraph (3), and ensure that any data
3 assets of the agency are machine readable.

4 (3) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The information
5 described in this paragraph is, with respect to dis-
6 aster assistance provided by the covered Federal
7 agency—

8 (A) the total amount of disaster assistance
9 provided by the agency during such quarter;

10 (B) the amount of disaster assistance pro-
11 vided by the agency that was expended or obli-
12 gated to projects or activities; and

13 (C) a detailed list of all projects or activi-
14 ties for which disaster assistance dispersed by
15 the agency was expended, obligated, or used, in-
16 cluding—

17 (i) the name of the project or activity;

18 (ii) a description of the project or ac-
19 tivity;

20 (iii) an evaluation of the completion
21 status of the project or activity;

22 (iv) any award identification number
23 assigned to the project;

1 (v) the Catalog for Disaster Assist-
2 ance number assigned by the Federal
3 Emergency Management Agency;

4 (vi) the location of the project, includ-
5 ing ZIP Codes; and

6 (vii) any reporting requirement infor-
7 mation being collected by a covered Fed-
8 eral agency with respect to that agency's
9 disaster assistance.

10 (4) GUIDANCE.—Each covered Federal agency,
11 in coordination with the Director of the Office of
12 Management and Budget and the Secretary of the
13 Treasury, shall issue such guidance as is necessary
14 to meet the requirements of this section.

15 (5) AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTITY.—The
16 Director, if necessary for purposes of transparency,
17 may enter into an agreement with a private entity,
18 including a nonprofit organization, to develop the
19 subpage required under this subsection.

20 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term
22 “covered Federal agency” means—

23 (A) any agency providing assistance under
24 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

1 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et
2 seq.);

3 (B) the Small Business Administration;
4 and

5 (C) the Department of Housing and Urban
6 Development.

7 (2) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—The term “dis-
8 aster assistance” means any funds that are made
9 available by the Federal Government in response to
10 a specified natural disaster, including—

11 (A) any assistance provided by the Admin-
12 istrator of the Small Business Administration
13 as a result of a disaster declared under section
14 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
15 636(b));

16 (B) any assistance provided by the Sec-
17 retary of Housing and Urban Development
18 for—

19 (i) activities authorized under title I
20 of the Housing and Community Develop-
21 ment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)
22 related to disaster relief, long-term recov-
23 ery, restoration of infrastructure and hous-
24 ing, and economic revitalization in the
25 most impacted and distressed areas result-

1 ing from a major disaster declared pursu-
2 ant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
3 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
4 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

5 (ii) flood insurance coverage provided
6 under the National Flood Insurance Pro-
7 gram pursuant to the National Flood In-
8 surance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et
9 seq.); and

10 (C) any assistance provided under the Rob-
11 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
12 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

13 (3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
14 recipient”—

15 (A) means any entity that receives disaster
16 assistance directly from the Federal Govern-
17 ment (including disaster assistance received
18 through grant, loan, or contract) other than an
19 individual; and

20 (B) includes a State that receives disaster
21 assistance.

22 (4) SPECIFIED NATURAL DISASTER.—The term
23 “specified natural disaster” means—

24 (A) a fire on public or private forest land
25 or grassland described in section 420 of the

1 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
2 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187);

3 (B) a major disaster declared by the Presi-
4 dent under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
5 5170);

6 (C) an emergency declared by the Presi-
7 dent under section 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
8 5191); and

9 (D) any other natural disaster for which a
10 disaster declaration is made by the Federal
11 Government.

12 **SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION.**

13 Section 308(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
14 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5151(a))
15 is amended by striking “or economic status” and inserting
16 “economic status, or political affiliation”.

17 **SEC. 404. REVIEW OF BURDENSOME REGULATIONS AND**
18 **POLICIES.**

19 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
20 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
21 shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and
22 Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
23 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
24 Representatives a report that—

1 (1) identifies any regulations, policies, and pro-
2 cedures promulgated pursuant to the Robert T.
3 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) that—

5 (A) are obsolete;

6 (B) conflict with other regulations, policies,
7 and procedures;

8 (C) conflict with current law;

9 (D) set more stringent requirements than
10 required by law; and

11 (E) create unnecessary burdens and costs
12 on disaster assistance; and

13 (2) contains recommendations on which regula-
14 tions, policies, and procedures should be amended or
15 rescinded.

16 **SEC. 405. REPORT ON ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
19 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to
20 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
21 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
22 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
23 ate a report with respect to fiscal year 2016 through the
24 most recent fiscal year ending before the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act, and an annual report for any fiscal year

1 beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act,
2 describing—

3 (1) the average amount of individual assistance
4 and individual and household assistance provided
5 under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
6 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
7 5121 et seq.) to, and the rate of denial of individual
8 assistance and individual and household assistance
9 provided under such section for—

10 (A) all individuals;

11 (B) households;

12 (C) individuals and households with a re-
13 ported annual income under 75 percent of the
14 national median household income;

15 (D) individuals with a reported annual in-
16 come over 125 percent of the national median
17 household income; and

18 (E) individuals with a reported annual in-
19 come between 75 percent and 125 percent of
20 the national median household income; and

21 (2) an explanation for any factors causing an
22 increase in the rate of denial of the assistance de-
23 scribed in paragraph (1), if applicable.

24 (b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—In the report sub-
25 mitted under subsection (a), the Administrator shall de-

1 scribe the number of homeowners and the number of rent-
2 ers for each category of individuals and households de-
3 scribed in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of subsection
4 (a)(1).

5 **SEC. 406. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

6 Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
7 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is fur-
8 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 433. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after a
11 declaration by the President that a major disaster exists
12 under section 401, the Administrator of the Federal
13 Emergency Management Agency shall publish on a
14 website of the Agency an interactive web tool displaying
15 the following information with respect to such disaster:

16 “(1) The number of applications for assistance
17 under section 408, including a description of the
18 number of applications for assistance related to
19 housing under such section and the number of appli-
20 cations for assistance to address other needs under
21 section 408(e).

22 “(2) The number of applications for such as-
23 sistance that are approved.

24 “(3) The number of applications for such as-
25 sistance that are denied.

1 “(4) A ranked list of the reasons for the denial
2 of such applications, including the number of appli-
3 cations for each reason for denial.

4 “(5) If available, the dollar amount of assist-
5 ance provided pursuant to section 408 to applicants
6 who are—

7 “(A) property owners with a household an-
8 nual income—

9 “(i) above the national median house-
10 hold income; and

11 “(ii) below the national median house-
12 hold income; and

13 “(B) renters with a household annual in-
14 come—

15 “(i) above the national median house-
16 hold income; and

17 “(ii) below the national median house-
18 hold income.

19 “(6) The estimated percentage of residential
20 property that was destroyed as a result of the major
21 disaster, if available.

22 “(7) Any other information that the Adminis-
23 trator determines to be relevant.

24 “(b) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—

25 The Administrator shall ensure that none of the informa-

tion published under subsection (a) contains the personally identifiable information of an applicant.”.

SEC. 407. GAO REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the practices, including the accuracy of such practices, that the Federal Emergency Management Agency uses when conducting preliminary damage assessments for the purposes of providing assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174).

(b) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall include in the study conducted under subsection (a) the following:

(1) A comparison of the process and procedures used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to complete preliminary damage assessments to the process and procedures used by private insurance companies following a major disaster.

(2) A review of training provided to individuals conducting preliminary damage assessments.

(3) A comparison of damage estimates for homes owned by individuals above the national me-

1 dian income to homes owned by individuals at or
2 below the national median income.

3 **SEC. 408. IMPROVED RENTAL ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
5 enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal
6 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a study to
7 examine the unique challenges of renters when seeking
8 Federal disaster assistance and any disparities of assist-
9 ance provided to homeowners and renters pursuant to sec-
10 tion 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
11 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) and develop
12 a plan that addresses any identified challenges and dis-
13 parities, including any recommendations for legislative ac-
14 tion.

15 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the
16 activities carried out under subsection (a), the Adminis-
17 trator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
18 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
19 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
20 Affairs of the Senate a report containing the study and
21 recommendations required under subsection (a).

22 (c) CONSULTATION.—In completing the study and re-
23 port required under subsections (a) and (b), the Adminis-
24 trator shall consult with appropriate Federal entities and
25 stakeholders involved in disaster housing.

1 **SEC. 409. GAO ASSESSMENT ON IDENTITY THEFT AND DIS-**
2 **ASTER FRAUD IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
3 **PROGRAMS.**

4 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
6 shall—

7 (1) conduct an assessment of improper and po-
8 tentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for
9 individuals made to survivors of major disasters de-
10 clared in 2020 and 2021, including through identity
11 theft; and

12 (2) submit to the Committee on Transportation
13 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
14 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
15 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report that de-
16 scribes—

17 (A) the prevalence of improper and poten-
18 tially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for
19 individuals made to registrants who used invalid
20 information to apply for disaster assistance, in-
21 cluding through identity theft;

22 (B) the number of disaster survivors whose
23 claims for Federal disaster assistance for indi-
24 viduals were denied due to another individual
25 filing a fraudulent application using their per-
26 sonal identifying information;

1 (C) the adequacy of existing fraud preven-
2 tion protocols in place on the Federal Emer-
3 gency Management Agency's online application
4 for Federal disaster assistance for individuals;
5 and

6 (D) recommendations for improving the
7 identity verification protocols in place for Fed-
8 eral disaster assistance for individuals.

9 **SEC. 410. GAO STUDY ON INSURANCE UTILIZATION FOR**
10 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE-ELIGIBLE FACILITIES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
13 of the United States shall complete a study on the utiliza-
14 tion of insurance by facilities eligible for public assistance.

15 (b) MATTERS TO BE STUDIED.—In conducting the
16 study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
17 examine the following:

18 (1) The effect of insurance coverage of a State
19 on declarations by the President under section 401
20 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
21 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) that a major
22 disaster exists in such State.

23 (2) Trends in insurance coverage for facilities
24 eligible for public assistance before and after such
25 facilities receive public assistance.

1 (3) The enforcement of insurance purchase re-
2 quirements under section 206.253 of title 44, Code
3 of Federal Regulations.

4 (4) Rates of noncompliance with, or lapses in,
5 required insurance coverage by recipients of public
6 assistance.

7 (5) Rates of insurance coverage among critical
8 facilities eligible for public assistance, including hos-
9 pitals, emergency operations centers, and public
10 safety buildings.

11 (6) Changes in facilities eligible for public as-
12 sistance obtaining insurance coverage after revisions
13 to flood hazard maps or other hazard designations.

14 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the
15 study required under subsection (a), the Comptroller Gen-
16 eral shall submit to Congress a report describing the re-
17 sults of such study, including findings and any rec-
18 ommendations for legislative or administrative action.

19 (d) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—In this section,
20 the term “public assistance” means assistance provided
21 under section 403, 406, 409, or 428 of the Robert T. Staf-
22 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

23 **SEC. 411. STUDY ON WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS.**

24 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
25 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the

1 United States shall conduct a study, and submit a report
2 thereon to the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
3 ernmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
4 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives, on wildfire management plans.

6 (b) CONTENTS.—In the report submitted under sub-
7 section (a), the Comptroller General shall include the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) A list and description of States that have a
10 completed forest management plan, wildland man-
11 agement plan, or any similar plan intended to guide
12 actions the State plans to take to mitigate the risk
13 of wildfires with respect to non-Federal lands.

14 (2) A description of States that have a high
15 risk of wildfires.

16 (3) For the States described in paragraph (2)—

17 (A) a list of the States that have completed
18 a plan described in paragraph (1); and

19 (B) a description of whether such plan is
20 effective at mitigating the risk of wildfires.

21 (4) An analysis of whether each State with a
22 plan described in paragraph (1) follows such plan
23 and makes available adequate resources to meet the
24 goals of such plan.

1 (5) An analysis of whether any Federal funding
2 for hazard mitigation provided to States with a high
3 risk of wildfires is used to carry out activities related
4 to mitigating the risk of wildfires.

5 (6) For wildfires that occurred during the 5-
6 year period ending on the date of enactment of this
7 Act, in States that did not have a plan described in
8 paragraph (1), an analysis as to whether damage
9 from such wildfires may have been reduced if such
10 States had such a plan in place.

11 (7) A comparison of the plans listed under
12 paragraph (1) and an identification of best practices
13 and areas for improvement.

14 (8) Recommendations on whether incentives are
15 needed in Federal funding for States to develop
16 plans described in paragraph (1) and follow such
17 plans.

18 **SEC. 412. EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL, STATE, TERRITORY,**
19 **AND FEDERAL ALERTING SYSTEMS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
21 United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness
22 of local, State, territory, and Federal emergency alerting
23 systems in disseminating timely and relevant information
24 during weather-related emergencies to help communities
25 develop better policies and procedures for emergency re-

1 sponse and enhance public safety in the event of a weath-
2 er-related emergency.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under sub-
4 section (a), the Comptroller General shall—

5 (1) evaluate the efficacy of various alert medi-
6 ums, including platforms such as social media, to
7 disseminate emergency alerts, including travel bans
8 and mass power outages, during extreme weather
9 events;

10 (2) assess the extent that guidance and training
11 exists for developing alert content, such as ensuring
12 alerts are clear, relevant, and provide the public with
13 actionable information; and

14 (3) determine whether improvements could be
15 made to public alerting, including outdoor siren sys-
16 tems, based on input from a selected sample of
17 emergency managers, local officials, and community
18 groups.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
21 shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and In-
22 frastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of
23 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
24 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
25 ate a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 413. GAO REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

2 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
4 shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and
5 Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
6 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
7 Representatives a report—

8 (1) on the actual management costs described
9 in section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
10 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
11 5165b) during the period of a major disaster dec-
12 laration under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
13 5170) to determine whether the amount set aside for
14 those management costs after the date of enactment
15 of this Act is appropriate; and

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

1 **SEC. 414. REPORT ON COORDINATION OF DISASTER ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE TO INDIVIDUALS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
5 Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination
6 with other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the
7 congressional committees of jurisdiction a report con-
8 ducted by all relevant Federal agencies to improve the
9 comprehensive delivery of disaster assistance to individ-
10 uals following a major disaster or emergency declaration
11 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
12 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

13 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required under para-
14 graph (1) shall include both administrative actions taken,
15 or planned to be taken, by the agencies as well as legisla-
16 tive proposals, where appropriate, of the following:

17 (1) Efforts to improve coordination between the
18 Agency and other relevant Federal agencies when
19 delivering disaster assistance to individuals.

20 (2) Clarify the sequence of delivery of disaster
21 assistance to individuals from the Agency, and other
22 relevant Federal agencies.

23 (3) Clarify the interpretation and implementa-
24 tion of section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
25 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
26 U.S.C. 5155) when providing disaster assistance to

1 individuals, including providing a common interpre-
2 tation across the Agency, and other relevant Federal
3 agencies, of the definitions and requirements under
4 such section 312.

5 (4) Increase the effectiveness of communication
6 to applicants for assistance programs for individuals
7 after a disaster declaration, including the breadth of
8 programs available and the potential impacts of uti-
9 lizing one program versus another.

10 (c) REPORT UPDATE.—Not later than 4 years after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in
12 coordination with other relevant Federal agencies, shall
13 submit to the congressional committees of jurisdiction an
14 update to the report required under paragraph (1).

15 **SEC. 415. GAO REVIEW OF COST SAVINGS ASSOCIATED**
16 **WITH REPAIR AND REBUILDING REFORMS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
19 of the United States shall complete a study on repair and
20 rebuilding reforms carried out by the Administrator of the
21 Federal Emergency Management Agency.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall in-
23 clude in the study conducted under subsection (a) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 (1) A comprehensive review of the costs associ-
2 ated with providing direct housing assistance options
3 in response to a major disaster or emergency, in-
4 cluding temporary housing units, transportable tem-
5 porary housing units, hoteling programs, and rental
6 assistance.

7 (2) An assessment of—

8 (A) the relative cost and timeliness of pro-
9 viding permanent repairs or reconstruction of
10 owner-occupied residences compared to the pro-
11 vision of direct housing assistance options, in-
12 cluding an evaluation of both short-term ex-
13 penditures and long-term Federal obligations;

14 (B) the effect of permanent repairs or re-
15 construction assistance on recovery outcomes
16 for survivors of major disasters, including time
17 to reestablishment, housing stability, health and
18 safety, and economic self-sufficiency, in com-
19 parison to the recovery outcomes for such sur-
20 vivors who received temporary sheltering;

21 (C) the effect of permanent repairs or re-
22 construction on the ability of survivors of major
23 disasters to remain in or return to pre-disaster
24 communities, including implications for commu-
25 nity cohesion and regional workforce stability;

1 (D) the benefits and potential challenges of
2 expanding the role of the Federal Emergency
3 Management Agency in direct repair or recon-
4 struction, including staffing, coordination with
5 States or Tribal governments, and interagency
6 collaboration;

7 (E) the effect of repair and rebuilding re-
8 forms on long-term Federal disaster recovery li-
9 abilities, including the potential for cost avoid-
10 ance in future disaster assistance, housing dis-
11 placement, and repeat assistance cases; and

12 (F) the adequacy of existing or proposed
13 safeguards to protect Federal funds.

14 (3) A review of the use of permanent repairs of
15 owner-occupied residences and permanent housing
16 construction by the Administrator, including best
17 practices and lessons learned.

18 (c) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study required
19 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall sub-
20 mit to Congress a report describing the results of such
21 study, including findings and any recommendations for
22 legislative or administrative action.

23 (d) REPAIR AND REBUILDING REFORMS DEFINED.—
24 In this section, the term “repair and rebuilding reforms”
25 means reforms to the provision of assistance under sec-

1 tions 403 and 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
2 lief and Emergency Assistance Act as a result of the
3 amendments made by this Act.

4 **SEC. 416. TRANSPARENCY FOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS.**

5 Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
6 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(d) TRANSPARENCY FOR MAJOR DISASTER DEC-
9 LARATIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon issuing an approval
11 or denial of a major disaster requested by a Gov-
12 ernor of a State or the Chief Executive of an af-
13 fected Indian tribal government under this section,
14 the President shall provide to the Governor or Chief
15 Executive a detailed justification of such approval or
16 denial that includes—

17 “(A) an explanation of the determination
18 that the damage caused by the disaster did or
19 did not exceed the capacity of the State or In-
20 dian tribal government;

21 “(B) a consideration of loss of life and po-
22 tential continued threats to public safety;

23 “(C) the total value of the damage caused
24 by the disaster as estimated by the President,
25 in consultation with the Administrator and im-

1 pacted State or Indian tribal government, that
2 was used to make the disaster declaration de-
3 termination; and

4 “(D) how the President, in consultation
5 with the Administrator—

6 “(i) determined whether the disaster
7 impacted a rural or economically distressed
8 community or communities; and

9 “(ii) considered whether there was se-
10 vere local impact or were recent multiple
11 disasters in the impacted area.

12 “(2) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall not
13 apply in any case in which the President makes a
14 declaration under this section for a major disaster
15 that is requested through expedited procedures, in-
16 cluding pursuant to section 206.36(d) of title 44,
17 Code of Federal Regulations.”.

18 **SEC. 417. FAST-MOVING DISASTERS WORKING GROUP.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
21 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall convene a
22 working group to review and develop best practices for
23 preparing for, mitigating against, public alerting, and re-
24 sponding to fast-moving disasters.

1 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group established
2 under subsection (a) shall be composed of—

3 (1) representatives from the Federal Emergency
4 Management Agency;

5 (2) representatives from the United States
6 Coast Guard;

7 (3) representatives from the Department of De-
8 fense;

9 (4) representatives from the National Weather
10 Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
11 Administration;

12 (5) representatives from the National Council
13 on Disability;

14 (6) representatives from the Department of
15 Health and Human Services;

16 (7) representatives of States, Tribal govern-
17 ments, and units of local government; and

18 (8) subject matter experts in emergency man-
19 agement, public alerts and warnings, emergency
20 evacuations, and preparedness and response.

21 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the convening of the working group pursuant to subsection
23 (a), the Administrator shall issue, and make publicly avail-
24 able, a report on—

1 (1) best practices to guide Federal, State, Trib-
2 al and local governments in preparing for, mitigating
3 against, public alerting, and responding to fast-mov-
4 ing disasters;

5 (2) proposed changes to plans and policies of
6 relevant Federal agencies to better assist in pre-
7 paring for, mitigating against, public alerting, and
8 responding to fast-moving disasters; and

9 (3) any needed legislative proposals that would
10 support preparing for, mitigating against, public
11 alerting, and responding to fast-moving disasters.

12 (d) FAST-MOVING DISASTER DEFINED.—In this sec-
13 tion, the term “fast-moving disaster” means an event that
14 develops or spreads rapidly, causing significant damage
15 and necessitating immediate response, including flash
16 flooding, wildfires, mudslides, and tornados.

17 **SEC. 418. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

18 Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
19 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is fur-
20 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 432. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

22 “For each major disaster that is declared by the
23 President under section 401 on or after the date that is
24 180 days after the date of enactment of the FEMA Act
25 of 2025, the Administrator shall, not later than 90 days

1 after such declaration, make publicly available on the
2 website of the Agency an interactive, publicly accessible
3 dashboard that tracks the following information with re-
4 spect to each such disaster:

5 “(1) Information on each cost estimate sub-
6 mitted under section 409, including information on
7 each applicant, date of each submission, descriptions
8 for each project, cost of each project with a break-
9 down of the Federal cost-share and non-Federal cost
10 share.

11 “(2) Status of the Agency review and approval
12 of each cost estimate submitted pursuant to section
13 409, including the date a project is approved and
14 the date the grant is issued.

15 “(3) An explanation for any cost estimate that
16 is not approved or if the grant is not provided in the
17 timeline as required by section 409 and any correc-
18 tive action taken by the Agency to conform with the
19 requirements of section 409.

20 “(4) Project-level progress updates, consistent
21 with the reporting requirements established under
22 section 409.

23 “(5) Information on requests made under sec-
24 tion 801, including dates and amounts of each re-
25 quest, timelines for submissions of required informa-

1 tion, and dates of approval and disbursement of
2 funds.

3 “(6) Any other information the Administrator
4 determines to be appropriate to ensure transparency
5 and accountability in the administration of public
6 assistance.”.

7 **SEC. 419. IMPROVING DISASTER WORKFORCE RETENTION.**

8 (a) IMPROVING DISASTER WORKFORCE RETENTION
9 IN NONCONTIGUOUS COMMUNITIES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
11 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall con-
12 duct a study on the effectiveness of practices of the
13 Agency relating to hiring, recruitment, and retention
14 in noncontiguous communities by soliciting feedback
15 from staff in such communities.

16 (2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under
17 paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

18 (A) evaluate the recruitment strategies of
19 the Agency and efforts of the Agency to broad-
20 en the pool of qualified local candidates;

21 (B) prioritize input from communities in
22 which there are the most severe staffing short-
23 ages; and

1 (C) identify specific steps that the Agency
2 can take to improve opportunities for staff in
3 noncontiguous communities.

4 (3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 6 months after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
6 shall brief the Committee on Transportation and In-
7 frastructure and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
8 rity of the House of Representatives and the Com-
9 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
10 fairs of the Senate on the results of the study con-
11 ducted under paragraph (1).

12 (4) POLICIES.—The Administrator shall take
13 such actions as are necessary to revise any policies,
14 guidance, or regulations of the Agency to address
15 the disaster workforce challenges in noncontiguous
16 communities identified in the study conducted under
17 paragraph (1).

18 (b) GAO REVIEW OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND RE-
19 COVERY IN NONCONTIGUOUS COMMUNITIES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
21 the United States shall conduct a study on the effec-
22 tiveness of disaster response and recovery practices
23 in noncontiguous communities, with a particular
24 focus on recovery efforts relating to damage caused
25 by Super Typhoon Yutu, and compare such practices

1 with the disaster response and recovery practices in
2 contiguous communities.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under
4 paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

5 (A) analyze ongoing recovery efforts from
6 disasters that have impacted noncontiguous
7 communities;

8 (B) analyze the level of coordination be-
9 tween the Federal Departments and Agencies
10 tasked with disaster response and recovery;

11 (C) assess how effectively Federal agencies
12 coordinate with State emergency management
13 offices;

14 (D) assess the effectiveness of the Area of-
15 fices and Regional Advisory Councils of the
16 Agency in assisting noncontiguous communities;
17 and

18 (E) make recommendations on how to im-
19 prove the disaster response and recovery out-
20 comes in noncontiguous communities.

21 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
23 General shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
24 tation and Infrastructure and the Committee on
25 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives

1 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
2 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the
3 study conducted under paragraph (1).

4 (c) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PILOT PRO-
5 GRAM.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
8 trator of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
9 cy shall establish a pilot program to implement new
10 technology in carrying out a preliminary damage as-
11 sessment in a noncontiguous community in which a
12 major disaster has been declared under section 401
13 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
14 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

15 (2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
16 gram established under paragraph (1), the Adminis-
17 trator shall ensure that the most geographically re-
18 mote noncontiguous communities are prioritized.

19 (3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 3 years after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
21 shall brief the Committee on Transportation and In-
22 frastructure and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
23 rity of the House of Representatives and the Com-
24 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-

1 fairs of the Senate on the implementation of the
2 pilot program established under paragraph (1).

3 (4) SUNSET.—The pilot program established
4 under paragraph (1) shall terminate on September
5 30, 2030.

6 **SEC. 420. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE RE-**
7 **LATED TO LIVESTOCK.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
9 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a study to
10 analyze the coordination between the Agency, the Depart-
11 ment of Agriculture, and the Small Business Administra-
12 tion, relating to disaster preparedness and response for
13 livestock.

14 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under sub-
15 section (a), the Administrator shall—

16 (1) identify areas in which increased coordina-
17 tion between the Agency, the Department of Agri-
18 culture, and the Small Business Administration,
19 could lead to eligible recipients receiving assistance
20 in a more timely manner;

21 (2) evaluate how the Agency can assist in the
22 development of disaster preparedness plans to help
23 reduce the financial impacts of disasters on live-
24 stock; and

1 (3) prioritize input from communities that have
2 received an emergency declaration, fire management
3 assistance, or major disaster declaration under the
4 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
5 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) within the
6 past 5 years.

7 (c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 6 months after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
9 brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
10 and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
11 of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
12 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the results
13 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

14 **SEC. 421. GAO REVIEW OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DISAS-**
15 **TERS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
18 of the United States shall complete a study of the pre-
19 paredness and response to water infrastructure failures,
20 specifically as it relates to the Federal Emergency Man-
21 agement Agency.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall in-
23 clude in the study conducted under subsection (a) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 (1) A comprehensive review of the existing
2 funding that States, localities, individuals, and small
3 businesses are eligible for following a water infra-
4 structure failure, both in instances in which an
5 emergency declaration has been declared and in
6 which an emergency declaration has not been de-
7 clared.

8 (2) As assessment of—

9 (A) the ways in which Federal entities
10 could partner with States to identify the areas
11 that are most at risk of future disasters caused
12 by water infrastructure failure; and

13 (B) how Congress could prioritize funding
14 to prevent future water infrastructure failures.

15 (c) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study required
16 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall sub-
17 mit to Congress a report describing the results of such
18 study, including findings and any recommendations for
19 legislative or administrative action.

