Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 5953, with An Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5953

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Graves of Missouri (for himself, Mr. Huffman, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Thompson of California, Ms. Plaskett, Miss González-Colón of Puerto Rico, and Mr. Carbajal) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

1 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act”.

SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY.

Section 1216(a) of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a(a)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as follows:

“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), shall—

“(i) waive a debt owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household if the covered assistance was distributed based on an error by the Agency and such debt shall be construed as a hardship; and

“(ii) waive a debt owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household if such assistance is subject to a claim or legal action, including in accordance with section 317 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5160); and”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B)—
(A) by striking “REMOVAL OF” and inserting “REPORT ON”; and

(B) in clause (ii) by striking “the authority of the Administrator to waive debt under paragraph (2) shall no longer be effective” and inserting “the Administrator shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate actions that the Administrator will take to reduce the error rate”.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a description of the internal processes used to make decisions regarding the distribution of covered assistance under section 1216 of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a) and any changes made to such processes.