To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLO´N introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

APRIL --, 2021

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed
A BILL

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act”.

SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

“(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

“(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, ef-
ficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be
less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming
for applicants and grantees; and
“(2) develop a plan for the regular collection
and reporting of information on Federal disaster as-
stance awarded, including the establishment and
maintenance of a website for presenting the informa-
tion to the public.
“(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not
later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this sec-
tion, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council
of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency,
shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the
Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Manage-
ment and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human
Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Admin-
istration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant
Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and
other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers
necessary, to—
“(1) identify and describe the potential areas of
duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage
assessments after disaster declarations;
“(2) determine the applicability of having one
Federal agency make the assessments for all agen-
cies; and

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

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

“(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive re-
port developed under subsection (e) shall be made avail-
able to the public and posted on the website of the Federal
Emergency Management Agency—

“(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable
versions that are made available in all appropriate
formats; and
“(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

“(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the comprehensive report, any publication, database, or web-based resource, and any information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity that is made available may be used.

“(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a designee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief, upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on the findings and any recommendations made in the comprehensive report.”.

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

“Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments.”.