

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 539

[Report No. 117-]

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

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

MARCH --, 2021

Reported from 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.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY.**

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

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

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

13 “(i) waive a debt owed to the United
14 States related to covered assistance pro-
15 vided to an individual or household if the
16 covered assistance was distributed based
17 on an error by the Agency and such debt
18 shall be construed as a hardship; and

19 “(ii) waive a debt owed to the United
20 States related to covered assistance pro-
21 vided to an individual or household if such
22 assistance is subject to a claim or legal ac-
23 tion, including in accordance with section
24 317 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-

1 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
2 U.S.C. 5160); and”; and
3 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)—
4 (A) by striking “REMOVAL OF” and insert-
5 ing “REPORT ON”; and
6 (B) in clause (ii) by striking “the authority
7 of the Administrator to waive debt under para-
8 graph (2) shall no longer be effective” and in-
9 serting “the Administrator shall report to the
10 Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
11 ture of the House of Representatives and the
12 Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
13 mental Affairs of the Senate actions that the
14 Administrator will take to reduce the error
15 rate”.

16 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

17 The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-
18 agement Agency shall submit to the Committee on Trans-
19 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
20 tives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
21 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a de-
22 scription of the internal processes used to make decisions
23 regarding the distribution of covered assistance under sec-
24 tion 1216 of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of

1 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a) and any changes made to such
2 processes.

3 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

4 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
5 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
6 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
7 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
8 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
9 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
10 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
11 vote on passage.