

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1130

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to modify the terms of the community disaster loan program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to modify the terms of the community disaster loan program, 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 “Whatever It Takes
5 To Rebuild Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Major disasters, including natural disasters
9 and disasters caused by terrorist acts, often result in

1 a decline in economic activity in areas affected by
2 the disaster and a reduction in tax collections by
3 State and local governments serving those areas.

4 (2) A report of the Government Accountability
5 Office entitled “September 11: Recent Estimates of
6 Fiscal Impact of 2001 Terrorist Attack on New
7 York”, dated March 2005, confirmed prior estimates
8 that—

9 (A) New York City lost between
10 \$2,500,000,000 and \$2,900,000,000 in tax rev-
11 enues for fiscal years 2002 and 2003; and

12 (B) the State of New York lost
13 \$2,900,000,000 for fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

14 (3) Under the community disaster loan program
15 (in this section referred to as the “CDL program”),
16 as authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
17 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, the President
18 may make loans to a local government suffering a
19 substantial loss of tax and other revenues as a result
20 of a major disaster, if the local government dem-
21 onstrates a need for financial assistance in order to
22 preform its governmental function.

23 (4) The President may cancel the repayment of
24 all or any part of a loan made to a local government
25 under the CDL program if revenues following the

1 disaster are insufficient to meet the operating budg-
2 et of that local government as a result of disaster-
3 related revenue losses and additional unreimbursed
4 disaster-related municipal operating expenses.

5 (5) Assistance made available under the CDL
6 program is often instrumental in aiding the full re-
7 covery of a local government following a major dis-
8 aster.

9 (6) The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 estab-
10 lished a \$5,000,000 limitation on loans made to a
11 local government under the CDL program in connec-
12 tion with a major disaster. Before the date of enact-
13 ment of such Act, there was not any limitation on
14 the amount of such loans.

15 (7) The \$5,000,000 limitation is inequitable
16 when applied to a local government serving a largely
17 populated area, such as New York City, and is in-
18 consistent with the objective of the CDL program to
19 provide meaningful assistance to a local government
20 recovering from a major disaster.

21 **SEC. 3. COMMUNITY DISASTER LOANS.**

22 (a) ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.—Section 417 of the
23 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
24 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5184) is amended by striking “local

1 government” each place it appears and inserting “State
2 or local government”.

3 (b) AMOUNT.—Section 417(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
4 5184(b)) is amended—

5 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
6 striking “based on need, shall” and inserting “based
7 on need and shall”; and

8 (2) in paragraphs (1) and (2) by striking “,
9 and shall not exceed \$5,000,000”.

10 (c) CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—Section 417 of such
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 5184) is amended by adding at the end
12 the following:

13 “(e) CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—In the case a loan
14 made under this section to a State or local government
15 which may suffer a substantial loss of tax and other reve-
16 nues as a result of a major disaster that the President
17 determines to be a catastrophic event—

18 “(1) the amount of the loan shall not be subject
19 to the percentage limitations in subsection (b); and

20 “(2) the President shall not require the pay-
21 ment of any interest or principal on a loan.”.

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