

Union Calendar No. 107

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1306

[Report No. 116–145]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

JULY 11, 2019

Additional sponsors: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. ROUZER, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas

JULY 11, 2019

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 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, 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 “Federal Disaster As-

5 sistance Coordination Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFOR-**
7 **MATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY**
8 **DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Re-

10 covery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is

11 amended to read as follows:

12 **“SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE IN-**
13 **FORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY**
14 **DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.**

15 “(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2

16 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-

17 ministrator, in coordination with the Small Business Ad-

18 ministration, the Department of Housing and Urban De-

19 velopment, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the

20 Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Effi-

21 ciency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

22 “(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, con-

23 sistent with law, under which the collection of infor-

24 mation from disaster assistance applicants and

25 grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, ef-

1 efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be
2 less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming
3 for applicants and grantees; and

4 “(2) develop a plan for the regular collection
5 and reporting of information on Federal disaster as-
6 sistance awarded, including the establishment and
7 maintenance of a website for presenting the informa-
8 tion to the public.

9 “(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not
10 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this sec-
11 tion, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council
12 of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency,
13 shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the
14 Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Manage-
15 ment and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human
16 Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Admin-
17 istration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant
18 Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and
19 other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers
20 necessary, to—

21 “(1) identify and describe the potential areas of
22 duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage
23 assessments after disaster declarations;

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

4 “(3) identify potential emerging technologies,
5 such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems, consistent with
6 the requirements established in Public Law 115–87,
7 to expedite the administration of preliminary dam-
8 age assessments.

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

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

22 “(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable
23 versions that are made available in all appropriate
24 formats; and

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

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

6 “(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after sub-
7 mission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of
8 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a des-
9 ignee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors Gen-
10 eral on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief,
11 upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on
12 the findings and any recommendations made in the com-
13 prehensive report.”.

14 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to
15 section 1223 in the table of contents of the Disaster Re-
16 covery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is
17 amended to read as follows:

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

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