

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7969

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disaster spending and strategies for reducing the need for such spending, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide assistance for certain activities relating to disasters and hazard mitigation, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2022

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disaster spending and strategies for reducing the need for such spending, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide assistance for certain activities relating to disasters and hazard mitigation, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**  
2 **STUDY ON DISASTER SPENDING.**

3 (a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United  
4 States shall conduct a study to identify the following:

5 (1) For the 5-year period ending on the date of  
6 enactment of this Act—

7 (A) the total amount of Federal funds  
8 spent in response to major disasters and emer-  
9 gencies declared pursuant to the Robert T.  
10 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
11 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

12 (B) the total amount of State and Indian  
13 tribal government funds spent in response to  
14 such major disasters and emergencies.

15 (2) 10 proposed Federal actions, to include re-  
16 insurance, that, if implemented, would most effec-  
17 tively reduce the need for spending related to such  
18 major disasters or emergencies. Such actions shall  
19 be listed in order of priority under criteria estab-  
20 lished by the Comptroller General, including the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 (A) Cost effectiveness.

23 (B) Return on investment.

24 (C) Simplicity or speed of implementation  
25 using existing resources.

1           (3) The effect that using blockchain may have  
2           on delivering disaster assistance to State and Indian  
3           tribal governments.

4           (4) Whether insurance protection against  
5           wildfires will remain available and affordable to  
6           homeowners.

7           (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
8           of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall  
9           submit to the covered entities a report containing the re-  
10          sults of the study.

11          (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12           (1) The term “covered entities” means—

13                   (A) Congress;

14                   (B) the Administrator of the Federal  
15           Emergency Management Agency; and

16                   (C) for each State and Indian tribal gov-  
17           ernment, the head of the agency for such State  
18           or Indian tribal government with jurisdiction  
19           over disaster response activities.

20           (2) The terms “Indian tribal government” and  
21           “State” have the meanings given such terms in sec-  
22           tion 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
23           and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

1 **SEC. 2. STATE DISASTER PLAN UPDATES.**

2 Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
3 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131) is  
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) With respect to State plans developed under this  
6 section, the President shall coordinate with each State to  
7 update such plans to incorporate strategies that decrease  
8 the time required to prepare for disasters, including the  
9 time to evacuate individuals.”.

10 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO ENTITIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF**  
11 **HAZARD MITIGATION REVOLVING LOAN**  
12 **FUNDS.**

13 Section 205(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
14 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5135(f))  
15 is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(9) SET ASIDE FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.—A  
17 participating entity shall ensure that at least 10 per-  
18 cent of the total dollar amount of the loans made by  
19 such entity under this subsection each fiscal year as-  
20 sist projects or activities that reduce risks, for resi-  
21 dential structures, related to the natural hazards de-  
22 scribed in paragraph (3).”.

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