

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2845

To prohibit recipients of disaster recovery relief assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from penalizing applicants that declined assistance from the Small Business Administration.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit recipients of disaster recovery relief assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from penalizing applicants that declined assistance from the Small Business Administration.

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 “Disaster Assistance
5 Simplification Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS FOR DISASTER RELIEF.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (1) the term “Administration” means the Small
2 Business Administration; and

3 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
4 of Housing and Urban Development.

5 (b) PROHIBITIONS.—With respect to a grant pro-
6 vided to a grantee under title I of the Housing and Com-
7 munity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)
8 related to a major disaster declared by the President
9 under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
10 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), the
11 Secretary and the grantee shall not—

12 (1) take into consideration whether an appli-
13 cant for assistance from the grantee applied and was
14 approved for, but declined, assistance related to the
15 major disaster from the Administration under sec-
16 tion 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
17 636(b)); or

18 (2) reduce the amount provided to an applicant
19 described in paragraph (1) by any amount that the
20 applicant would have received from the Administra-
21 tion if the applicant had not declined the assistance.

22 (c) APPLICATION.—Subsection (b) shall apply with
23 respect to applicants for assistance from a grantee under
24 title I of the Housing and Community Development Act
25 of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) with respect to a major

1 disaster declared by the President under section 401 of
2 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
3 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) who applied for assistance
4 from the Administration under section 7(b) of the Small
5 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) related to the major dis-
6 aster before, on, or after the date of enactment of this
7 Act.

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