

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4636

To revise the treatment of urbanized areas experiencing population changes following a major disaster.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. Kaine) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To revise the treatment of urbanized areas experiencing population changes following a major disaster.

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 “Giving Relief to Amer-  
5 ican Communities in Emergencies Act” or the “GRACE  
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. URBANIZED AREAS.**

8 (a) EXTENSION OF TREATMENT OF URBANIZED  
9 AREAS.—Section 21101 of division B of the Bipartisan  
10 Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123; 132 Stat. 103)

1 is amended by striking “and 2020” and inserting “2020,  
2 2021, and 2022”.

3 (b) CENSUS DISCRETION.—Section 5324 of title 49,  
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
5 following:

6 “(f) CENSUS DISCRETION.—

7 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

8 “(A) the term ‘disaster-related population  
9 decrease’, with respect to an urbanized area,  
10 means that—

11 “(i) the population of the urbanized  
12 area decreases to be less than 50,000 indi-  
13 viduals, as determined in a decennial cen-  
14 sus after the decennial census in which the  
15 area was designated as an urbanized area;  
16 and

17 “(ii) the decrease described in clause  
18 (i) is a result of a major disaster declared  
19 by the President under section 401 of the  
20 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
21 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
22 5170); and

23 “(B) the term ‘urbanized area’ means an  
24 area designated in a decennial census as an ur-  
25 banized area by the Secretary of Commerce.

1           “(2) ELECTION.—Upon request by the Gov-  
2           ernor of a State in which an urbanized area that ex-  
3           periences a disaster-related population decrease is lo-  
4           cated, the Secretary of Transportation may elect for  
5           the purposes of this chapter, including for purposes  
6           of making apportionments under this chapter, to—  
7                   “(A) use the population of the urbanized  
8                   area, as determined in the decennial census be-  
9                   fore the most recent decennial census; and  
10                   “(B) continue to treat the area as an ur-  
11                   banized area.”.

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