

Union Calendar No. 475

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. 5953****[Report No. 116–577]**

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PLASKETT, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Additional sponsor: Mr. GARAMENDI

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Reported with an amendment; committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 25, 2020]

A BILL

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, 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 “Preventing Disaster Re-*
5 *victimization Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY.**

7 *Section 1216(a) of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act*
8 *of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a(a)) is amended—*

9 *(1) by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as*
10 *follows:*

11 *“(A) except as provided in subparagraph*
12 *(B), shall—*

13 *“(i) waive a debt owed to the United*
14 *States related to covered assistance provided*
15 *to an individual or household if the covered*
16 *assistance was distributed based on an error*
17 *by the Agency and such debt shall be con-*
18 *strued as a hardship; and*

19 *“(ii) waive a debt owed to the United*
20 *States related to covered assistance provided*
21 *to an individual or household if such assist-*
22 *ance is subject to a claim or legal action,*
23 *including in accordance with section 317 of*
24 *the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*

1 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5160);*

2 *and”; and*

3 *(2) in paragraph (3)(B)—*

4 *(A) by striking “REMOVAL OF” and insert-*
5 *ing “REPORT ON”; and*

6 *(B) in clause (ii) by striking “the authority*
7 *of the Administrator to waive debt under para-*
8 *graph (2) shall no longer be effective” and insert-*
9 *ing “the Administrator shall report to the Com-*
10 *mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of*
11 *the House of Representatives and the Committee*
12 *on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-*
13 *airs of the Senate actions that the Adminis-*
14 *trator will take to reduce the error rate”.*

15 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

16 *The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-*
17 *ment Agency shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-*
18 *tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives*
19 *and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-*
20 *mental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a descrip-*
21 *tion of the internal processes used to make decisions regard-*
22 *ing the distribution of covered assistance under section 1216*
23 *of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C.*
24 *5174a) and any changes made to such processes.*

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