

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8266

To modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020, relating to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. STANTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SIRES, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. LOFGREN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020, relating to COVID–19, 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 “FEMA Assistance Re-

5 lief Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. COST SHARE.**

7 (a) TEMPORARY FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwith-

8 standing sections 403(b), 403(c)(4), 404(a), 406(b),

9 408(d), 408(g)(2), 428(e)(2)(B), and 503(a) of the Robert

10 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

11 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), for any emergency or major dis-

12 aster declared by the President under such Act during the

13 period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on De-

14 cember 31, 2020, the Federal share of assistance provided

15 under such sections shall be not less than 90 percent of

16 the eligible cost of such assistance.

17 (b) COST SHARE UNDER COVID EMERGENCY DEC-

18 LARATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), assistance

19 provided under the emergency declaration issued by the

20 President on March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 501(b)

21 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency

22 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)), and under any subse-

23 quent major disaster declaration under section 401 of such

24 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes such emergency

25 declaration, shall be at a 100 percent Federal cost share.

1 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the emergency declared on
3 March 13, 2020, by the President under section 501 of
4 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
5 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191), the President may provide
6 assistance for activities, costs, and purchases of States or
7 local governments or the owners or operators of eligible
8 private nonprofits, including—

9 (1) activities eligible for assistance under sec-
10 tions 301, 415, 416, and 426 of the Robert T. Staf-
11 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 5141, 5182, 5183, 5189d);

13 (2) backfill costs for first responders and other
14 essential employees who are ill or quarantined;

15 (3) increased operating costs for essential gov-
16 ernment services due to such emergency, including
17 costs for implementing continuity plans, and shel-
18 tering or housing for first responders, emergency
19 managers, health providers, and other essential em-
20 ployees;

21 (4) costs of providing guidance and information
22 to the public and for call centers to disseminate such
23 guidance and information;

24 (5) costs associated with establishing and oper-
25 ating virtual services;

1 (6) costs for establishing and operating remote
2 test sites;

3 (7) training provided specifically in anticipation
4 of or in response to the event on which such emer-
5 gency declaration is predicated;

6 (8) personal protective equipment and other
7 critical supplies and services for first responders and
8 other essential employees, including individuals
9 working in public schools, courthouses, and public
10 transit systems;

11 (9) medical equipment, regardless of whether
12 such equipment is used for emergency or inpatient
13 care;

14 (10) public health costs, including provision and
15 distribution of medicine and medical supplies;

16 (11) costs associated with maintaining alternate
17 care facilities or related facilities currently inactive
18 but related to future needs tied to the ongoing pan-
19 demic event; and

20 (12) costs of procuring and distributing food to
21 individuals affected by the pandemic through net-
22 works established by State, local, or Tribal govern-
23 ments, or other organizations, including restaurants
24 and farms, and for the purchase of food directly
25 from food producers and farmers.

1 (b) MAJOR DISASTER.—The activities described in
2 subsection (a) may also be eligible for assistance under
3 any major disaster declared by the President under section
4 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes the
5 emergency declaration described in such subsection.

6 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
7 tion shall be construed to make ineligible any assistance
8 that would otherwise be eligible under section 403 or 502
9 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5192).

10 (d) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
11 “State” has the meaning given the term in section 102
12 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
13 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

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