

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7211

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, review a final rule of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Small State and Rural
3 Rescue Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF SMALL STATE AND RURAL ADVOCATE.**
5

6 Section 326(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
7 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165d) is
8 amended—

9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
10 (2);

11 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph
12 (4); and

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:
14

15 “(3) assist States in the collection and presentation
16 of material in the disaster or emergency declaration request
17 relevant to demonstrate severe localized impacts within the State
18 for a specific incident,
19 including—

20 “(A) the per capita personal income by
21 local area, as calculated by the Bureau of Economic
22 Analysis;

23 “(B) the disaster impacted population profile, as reported
24 by the Bureau of the Census,
25 including—

1 “(i) the percentage of the population
2 for whom poverty status is determined;

3 “(ii) the percentage of the population
4 already receiving Government assistance
5 such as Supplemental Security Income and
6 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Pro-
7 gram benefits;

8 “(iii) the pre-disaster unemployment
9 rate;

10 “(iv) the percentage of the population
11 that is 65 years old and older;

12 “(v) the percentage of the population
13 18 years old and younger;

14 “(vi) the percentage of the population
15 with a disability;

16 “(vii) the percentage of the population
17 who speak a language other than English
18 and speak English less than ‘very well’;
19 and

20 “(viii) any unique considerations re-
21 garding American Indian and Alaskan Na-
22 tive Tribal populations raised in the
23 State’s request for a major disaster dec-
24 laration that may not be reflected in the

1 data points referenced in this subpara-
2 graph;

3 “(C) the impact to community infrastruc-
4 ture, including—

5 “(i) disruptions to community life-sav-
6 ing and life-sustaining services;

7 “(ii) disruptions or increased demand
8 for essential community services; and

9 “(iii) disruptions to transportation, in-
10 frastructure, and utilities; and

11 “(D) any other information relevant to
12 demonstrate severe local impacts.”.

13 **SEC. 3. GAO REVIEW OF A FINAL RULE.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall
15 conduct a review of the Federal Emergency Management
16 Agency’s implementation of its final rule, published on
17 March 21, 2019, amending section 206.48(b) of title 44,
18 Code of Federal Regulations (regarding factors considered
19 when evaluating a Governor’s request for a major disaster
20 declaration), which revised the factors that the Agency
21 considers when evaluating a Governor’s request for a
22 major disaster declaration authorizing individual assist-
23 ance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
24 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq).

1 (b) SCOPE.—The review required under subsection
2 (a) shall include the following:

3 (1) An assessment of the criteria used by the
4 Agency to assess individual assistance requests fol-
5 lowing a major disaster declaration authorizing indi-
6 vidual assistance.

7 (2) An assessment of the consistency with
8 which the Agency uses the updated Individual As-
9 sistance Declaration Factors when assessing the im-
10 pact of individual communities after a major dis-
11 aster declaration.

12 (3) An assessment of the impact, if any, of
13 using the updated Individual Assistance Declaration
14 Factors has had on equity in disaster recovery out-
15 comes.

16 (4) Recommendations to improve the use of the
17 Individual Assistance Declaration Factors to in-
18 crease equity in disaster recovery outcomes.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
21 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
22 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
23 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

1 of the Senate a report on the review required under this
2 section.

Passed the House of Representatives June 14, 2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.