

116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 3060

To provide for reform and reorganization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 3, 2019

Ms. Jackson Lee (for herself, Mr. Payne, Ms. Kaptur, and Mr. Johnson of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor, the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for reform and reorganization 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,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "FEMA Modernization Act of 2019".
- 6 (b) Table of Contents for
- 7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

- Sec. 101. Office of Disaster Response; Office of Disaster Recovery; Office of Long-Term Recovery.
- Sec. 102. Medical disaster response and recovery training facility.
- Sec. 103. Labor training program.
- Sec. 104. Disaster Emergency Housing Assistance Grant Program.
- Sec. 105. Housing post disaster stability.
- Sec. 106. Prohibition on enforcement of immigration.

TITLE II—REPORTS

- Sec. 201. Federal Emergency Management Agency reports.
- Sec. 202. Government Accountability Office.
- Sec. 203. Circumstances which may impact first responders during a terrorist event.

TITLE III—DISASTER RECOVERY SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

- Sec. 301. Short title.
- Sec. 302. Definitions.
- Sec. 303. Office of Disaster Recovery Small Business Grants.
- Sec. 304. Compensation for victims of a federally declared disaster.
- Sec. 305. Reports and audits.
- Sec. 306. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 307. Termination of authority.

TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Extension of authorities for pandemic and all-hazards preparedness.
- Sec. 402. Transfer of the Surge Capacity Force.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

- 2 In this Act:
- 3 (1) Administrator.—The term "Adminis-
- 4 trator" means the Administrator of FEMA.
- 5 (2) FEMA.—The term "FEMA" means the
- 6 Federal Emergency Management Agency.

1 TITLE I—DISASTER RESPONSE 2 AND RECOVERY

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3	SEC. 101. OFFICE OF DISASTER RESPONSE; OFFICE OF DIS-
4	ASTER RECOVERY; OFFICE OF LONG-TERM
5	RECOVERY.
6	(a) Establishment.—Not later than 1 year after
7	the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
8	take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the Of-
9	fice of Response and Recovery of the Agency is divided
10	into an Office of Disaster Response and an Office of Dis-
11	aster Recovery, subject to the requirements of this section.
12	(b) Office of Disaster Response.—
13	(1) Duties.—The duties of the Office of Dis-
14	aster Response shall be as follows:
15	(A) Lead Federal disaster response.
16	(B) Prepare for, coordinate, and facilitate
17	Federal support for State managed and locally
18	executed multi-stakeholder engagement in plan-
19	ning and coordinating of disaster response.
20	(C) Coordinate and manage Federal Emer-
21	gency Management Agency assigned staff and
22	maintain awareness of other Federal agency
23	disaster response assigned staff or other per-
24	sonnel deployments to Tribal and Territorial,
25	State, or local government offices to better col-

1	laborate and coordinate Federal efforts in sup-
2	port of State managed and locally executed dis-
3	aster preparedness and response activities.
4	(D) Conduct public education on the dis-
5	aster response roles of Federal, Tribal and Ter-
6	ritorial, State, and local governments.
7	(E) Any other duty determined appropriate
8	by the Administrator.
9	(2) Officers.—Not later than 1 year after the
10	date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
11	shall appoint an Associate Administrator of the Of-
12	fice of Disaster Response and deputy associate ad-
13	ministrators, as determined appropriate.
14	(3) Additional positions.—The Adminis-
15	trator may create, and appoint individuals to, such
16	positions as are considered necessary by the Admin-
17	istrator, including—
18	(A) a military liaison officer to work with
19	the defense coordinating officer; and
20	(B) a Liaison Officer for Asset Acquisition
21	and Deployment in Federal supported, State
22	managed, and locally executed plan to support
23	the delivery of funds, equipment, and resources
24	to local jurisdictions in advance of pending dis-

asters by facilitating engagement by the private

1	sector with Tribal and Territorial and State
2	and local governments in support of meeting
3	the pending disaster response needs.
4	(c) Office of Disaster Recovery.—
5	(1) Duties.—The duties of the Office of Dis-
6	aster Recovery shall be as follows:
7	(A) Assess recovery following a disaster
8	and make recommendations on the estimated
9	time for recovery.
10	(B) Provide definitions of what constitutes
11	a short-term recovery and a long-term recovery
12	and how this determination shall be made in as-
13	sessing post disaster recovery periods.
14	(C) Coordinate and manage Federal as-
15	signed staff from the Federal Emergency Man-
16	agement Agency to be sent to work in Tribal
17	and Territorial and State or local government
18	agencies.
19	(D) Carry out the accurate collection, re-
20	tention, and reporting of data related to Fed-
21	eral disaster recovery and shall act as a re-
22	source on post-disaster recovery efforts.
23	(E) Submit to the Committee on Oversight
24	and Government Reform of the House of Rep-
25	resentatives and the Committee on Homeland

- Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an annual report on the status of all recovery projects during the prior year, including whether Federal projects are on time, within cost, and meeting the needs and objectives of recovery.
 - (F) Provide for civil engineers that make recommendations to the Administrator and partnering Federal agencies on the scope and severity of damage, projections on rehabilitation, demolition, repair, and reconstruction of critical infrastructure deemed essential to Federal, Tribal and Territorial, State, and local government, accessing impacted areas, or achieving stability in the recovery process.
 - (G) Any other duty determined appropriate by the Administrator.
 - (2) Officers.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall appoint an Associate Administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and deputy associate administrators, as determined appropriate.
 - (3) Additional positions.—The Administrator may create, and appoint individuals to, such

1	positions as are considered necessary by the Admin-
2	istrator.
3	(d) Ombudsman.—
4	(1) Establishment.—The Office of Disaster
5	Response and the Office of Disaster Recovery shall
6	each establish an office of a Federal ombudsman
7	that shall be an independent and impartial office
8	that examines complaints that arise from disaster
9	response or disaster assistance provided to individ-
10	uals, organizations, or local, State, Tribal or Terri-
11	torial governments the activities of which are funded
12	by the Federal Government.
13	(2) Annual Report.—Not later than 360 days
14	after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
15	thereafter, the ombudsman of each office described
16	in paragraph (1) shall submit to Congress a report
17	on the activities of the office, including—
18	(A) the number of complaints submitted to
19	the office;
20	(B) a description of any investigation con-
21	ducted pursuant to such complaints;
22	(C) the resolution of any such investiga-
23	tion;

1	(D) the disposition of matters found to not
2	be under the jurisdiction of the office or a De-
3	partment of Homeland Security component; and
4	(E) recommendations on best practices or
5	ways to improve the work of the office.
6	(e) Office of Long-Term Recovery.—Not later
7	than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act,
8	the Administrator shall establish an Office of Long Term
9	Recovery. The duties of such Office shall be determined
10	by the Administrator.
11	SEC. 102. MEDICAL DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY
12	TRAINING FACILITY.
13	Section 303 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
14	and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5143) is
15	amended by adding at the end the following:
16	"(c) Medical Disaster Response and Recovery
17	
. ,	TRAINING FACILITY.—
18	
	Training Facility.—
18	Training Facility.— "(1) Establishment.—Not later than 18
18 19	Training Facility.— "(1) Establishment.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the FEMA
18 19 20	Training Facility.— "(1) Establishment.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the FEMA Modernization Act of 2019, the President, acting
18 19 20 21	Training Facility.— "(1) Establishment.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the FEMA Modernization Act of 2019, the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
18 19 20 21 22	Training Facility.— "(1) Establishment.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the FEMA Modernization Act of 2019, the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Administrator of the

- 1 "(2) Management.—The medical facility es-2 tablished under paragraph (1) shall be managed by 3 the Secretary of Health and Human Services and in 4 consultation with the Administrator of the Federal 5 Emergency Management Agency.
 - "(3) Capacity.—The facility established under this subsection shall have a capacity to train 800 medical personnel annually, which shall increase to 1,200 annually on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the FEMA Modernization Act of 2019.
 - "(4) Report.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of the FEMA Modernization Act of 2019 the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, Pensions, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a report containing a plan to

engage local and State government partners in promotion of the development of surge teams.

"(d) National Disaster Medical Triage.—

"(1) In General.—The President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and the Military Health System, shall establish a National Disaster Medical Triage capacity that shall include the development of guidelines for Tactical Disaster Casualty Care which shall be used for medical evacuation protocols to be implemented by local and State governments in advance of certain major disasters, as designated by the Administrator in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to—

"(A) remove individuals with requisite health conditions, including dialysis patients, heart patients, diabetics, physically impaired individuals, pregnant individuals, those who have recently delivered a child, and individuals recovering from surgery, out of the path of danger; and

1	"(B) establish medical priorities policies
2	for certain disaster situations, as determined by
3	the Administrator, to reduce loss of life and
4	human suffering.
5	"(2) Local efforts.—In carrying out this
6	subsection, the Administrator shall promote local ef-
7	forts to develop compacts with medical systems to
8	take patients for short-term disaster evacuation or
9	to host locations for field hospitals when needed.
10	"(3) Liability protections.—
11	"(A) In general.—Subject to this para-
12	graph, a covered person shall be immune from
13	suit and liability under Federal and State law
14	with respect to all claims for medical care by a
15	board certified or accredited practitioner arising
16	out of medical services provided to an individual
17	in the course of a medical evacuation protocol
18	described in paragraph (1).
19	"(B) COVERED PERSON.—The term 'cov-
20	ered person' means a person—
21	"(i) who is a health care provider li-
22	censed under the laws of the State in
23	which the action giving rise to the claim
24	described in subparagraph (A) occurred:

1	"(ii) who was providing medical serv-
2	ices that are within the scope of the per-
3	son's license;
4	"(iii) was acting in accordance with a
5	protocol described in paragraph (1); and
6	"(iv) is acting in a volunteer capacity.
7	"(C) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—This para-
8	graph shall not apply in the case of willful mis-
9	conduct (as such term is defined in section
10	319F–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42
11	U.S.C. 247–6d).
12	"(e) Incident Medical Recovery Management
13	TEAM.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enact-
14	ment of the FEMA Modernization Act of 2019, the Presi-
15	dent, acting through the Administrator of the Federal
16	Emergency Management Agency and in consultation with
17	the American College of Surgeons and the Department of
18	Defense Health Agency, shall establish an Incident Med-
19	ical Recovery Management Team to determine best prac-
20	tices in implementing an Advanced Trauma Life Support
21	capabilities, to assess health impacts that result from fed-
22	erally declared disasters.".
23	SEC. 103. LABOR TRAINING PROGRAM.
24	(a) Establishment.—The Administrator shall es-
25	tablish a program to provide education and job training

- 1 to those who become unemployed or underemployed due
- 2 to the effects of a federally declared disaster and who have
- 3 enrolled for disaster assistance through a federally created
- 4 or recognized program. To qualify for assistance under
- 5 this section, an individual shall have been employed, re-
- 6 ceiving government employment assistance or benefits, or
- 7 enrolled in a high school, college, or training program at
- 8 the time of the disaster. Such assistance may be in the
- 9 form of unemployment benefits, job training programs,
- 10 and displaced worker assistance.
- 11 (b) Use of Funds.—Funds provided under the pro-
- 12 gram shall be used for—
- 13 (1) retraining or new employment skills train-
- ing or education to fill positions that will transition
- the person into new jobs; and
- 16 (2) providing incentives to employers who em-
- ploy individuals who are receiving housing assistance
- under section 102 or have filed a disaster claim
- 19 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
- 20 Emergency Assistance Act.
- 21 (c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
- 22 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
- 23 carry out this section \$100,000,000, for each of fiscal
- 24 years 2020 through 2030.

SEC. 104. DISASTER EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

- 2 GRANT PROGRAM.
- 3 (a) Establishment.—There shall be established a
- 4 Disaster Emergency Housing Assistance Grant Program
- 5 under which Administrator of FEMA may authorize the
- 6 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, pursuant
- 7 to the authority under section 408 of the Robert T. Staf-
- 8 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
- 9 U.S.C. 5174) and according to the terms of such section,
- 10 to provide immediate housing and urban development as-
- 11 sistance that meets the particular housing needs of sur-
- 12 vivors of a federally declared disaster event.
- 13 (b) Funding.—There are authorized to be appro-
- 14 priated not more than \$300,000,000, for each of fiscal
- 15 years 2020 through 2030 to carry out the program under
- 16 this section.
- 17 (c) AUTHORITY.—The President may grant to the
- 18 Administrator of FEMA approval to activate a Disaster
- 19 Emergency Housing Assistance Grant Program.
- 20 (d) Waiver.—The requirements of section 408 of
- 21 such Act may be waived for 180 days by the President
- 22 if a request for a waiver is made by the Administrator
- 23 and agreed to by the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
- 24 velopment in the case of a federally declared major dis-
- 25 aster wherein 60 percent or more of the housing stock is
- 26 severely damaged, destroyed, or is otherwise render medi-

- 1 cally unsafe for human habitation, which shall include con-
- 2 dominiums and housing cooperatives.

3 SEC. 105. HOUSING POST DISASTER STABILITY.

- 4 (a) Establishment.—Not later than 365 days after
- 5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
- 6 FEMA, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and
- 7 Urban Development and with the advice of the Bureau
- 8 of Consumer Financial Protection, shall establish mecha-
- 9 nisms to stabilize housing economies within areas des-
- 10 ignated as Federal disasters for the period of 60 months
- 11 into a long-term recovery such that the available housing
- 12 designated as low- and moderate-income housing is main-
- 13 tained at a rate that meets 90 percent or more of the pre-
- 14 disaster low- to moderate-income housing levels for the
- 15 population impacted by the disaster.
- 16 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the mecha-
- 17 nisms under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure the
- 18 following:
- 19 (1) Multi-unit housing owners or operators who
- 20 receive disaster-related loans provided by the Small
- 21 Business Administration, or provided with other
- Federal funding to recover, rehabilitate, or construct
- 23 new housing, are prohibited from raising rents on
- those multi-family housing units for the first 18

- 1 months of occupancy following the disaster-related 2 repairs or construction have ended.
 - (2) Beginning on the date that is 18 months after a report of construction is completed and an necessary inspections certify that a segment of multifamily housing is approved for occupancy, for a period of 30 months after occupancy begins with respect to each unit that was repaired or created using Federal assistance, the cost of rent for such unit shall not increase by more than 10 percent of the rent charged for the month prior to the disaster.
 - (3) New multi-unit housing rental rates should be comparable to the rents charged for similar rentals serving the market impacted by the disaster.
 - (4) With respect to any unit of housing designated as a single, individually owned housing unit in a multi-unit building by local tax records at least 24 months prior to a Federally declared major disaster—
 - (A) homeowners or purchasers of such a unit shall qualify for housing repair and new construction assistance under a loan program carried out by the Secretary that provides for Federal guaranteed loans at the 1.25 percent; and

1	(B) owners or operators of such a multi-
2	unit building shall qualify for assistance for re-
3	construction or repair of common areas under
4	a loan program carried out by the Secretary
5	that provides for Federal guaranteed loans at a
6	rate of 4.5 percent.
7	SEC. 106. PROHIBITION ON ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRA-
8	TION.
9	Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during
10	a federally declared disaster, the Secretary of Homeland
11	Security may not enforce the immigration laws (as such
12	term is defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Na-
13	tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)) with respect to any alien
14	who is seeking assistance, including housing, as a result
15	of such disaster.
16	TITLE II—REPORTS
17	SEC. 201. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
18	REPORTS.
19	(a) Casework Management System Report.—
20	Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
21	Act, the Administrator shall submit a report on the ability
22	of FEMA to support a State managed and locally executed
23	casework management system to coordinate and deliver di-
24	rect assistance to disaster survivors in placing applications
25	for Federal post disaster assistance to the following:

1	(1) The Committee on Homeland Security of
2	the House of Representatives.
3	(2) The Committee on Transportation and In-
4	frastructure of the House of Representatives.
5	(3) The Committee on Energy and Commerce
6	of the House of Representatives.
7	(4) The Committee on Ways and Means of the
8	House of Representatives.
9	(5) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
10	House of Representatives.
11	(6) The Committee on House Administration of
12	the House of Representatives.
13	(7) The Committee on Homeland Security and
14	Government Affairs of the Senate.
15	(8) The Committee on Banking, Housing, and
16	Urban Affairs of the Senate.
17	(9) The Committee on Health, Education,
18	Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.
19	(10) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
20	Senate.
21	(11) The Committee on Rules and Administra-
22	tion of the Senate.
23	(b) After-Action Reports.—Not later than 2
24	years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
25	thereafter, the Administrator of FEMA shall submit to the

- committees listed in subsection (a) an after-action report on the activities of the Office of Disaster Response and 3 the Office of Disaster Recovery, including— 4 (1) the types of disasters responded to; 5 (2) the resources needed; 6 (3) strengths and weaknesses of the response or 7 mitigation effort; 8 (4) lessons learned; and 9 (5) recommendations on how to improve. 10 (c) Catastrophic Resource Reports.— 11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after 12 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually 13 thereafter, the Administrator of FEMA shall develop 14 and submit to the committees listed in subsection 15 (a) an estimate of the resources of FEMA and other 16 Federal agencies that are needed for and devoted 17 specifically to developing the disaster response capa-18 bilities of Federal, State, local, and Tribal govern-19 ments. 20 (2) Classified annex.—At the discretion of 21
- the Secretary, the Administrator may include in the estimate under paragraph (1) a classified annex that reports on what the Federal Government has on hand to meet a range of response or recovery needs related to specific types of events, which may include

1	floods, wildfires, earth movements, windstorms, dis-
2	ease outbreaks, manmade disasters such as chemical
3	attacks, cyberattacks, or radiological incidents.
4	(3) Contents.—Each estimate under para-
5	graph (1) shall include an estimate of the resources
6	both necessary for and devoted to—
7	(A) planning;
8	(B) training and exercises;
9	(C) Regional Office enhancements;
10	(D) staffing, including for surge capacity
11	during a catastrophic incident;
12	(E) additional logistics capabilities;
13	(F) other responsibilities under the cata-
14	strophic incident annex and the catastrophic in-
15	cident supplement of the National Response
16	Framework;
17	(G) reporting on the costs of support of
18	State, local, and Tribal governments' cata-
19	strophic incident preparedness planning; and
20	(H) covering increases in the fixed costs or
21	expenses of FEMA, including rent or property
22	acquisition costs or expenses, taxes, contribu-
23	tions to the working capital fund of the Depart-
24	ment of Homeland Security, and security costs

- 1 for the year after the year in which such esti-
- 2 mate is submitted.
- 3 (d) Report on Technology.—Not later than 180
- 4 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
- 5 trator of FEMA shall submit to the appropriate congres-
- 6 sional committees a study on what technology may provide
- 7 better predictive information on the detection of pending
- 8 disasters and what technology may better measure the
- 9 scope of a disaster.
- 10 (e) Volunteers and Disaster Response Re-
- 11 PORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
- 12 ment of this Act, the head of the Office of Disaster Re-
- 13 sponse shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
- 14 mittees a volunteers and disaster response report that
- 15 specifies—
- 16 (1) the role that volunteers fill in disaster re-
- sponse and rescue; and
- 18 (2) recommendations on the contributions of
- volunteers and best practices for official disaster re-
- sponse, without formalizing the role of volunteers in
- 21 disaster response.
- 22 (f) Compilation of Fatality and Missing Per-
- 23 SONS DATA.—Not later than 1 year after the date on
- 24 which the President declares a major disaster or emer-
- 25 gency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

- 1 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the
- 2 Administrator of FEMA shall submit to the Committee
- 3 on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee
- 4 on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives
- 5 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
- 6 mental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
- 7 and Transportation of the Senate a report that compiles
- 8 the number of fatalities and missing persons as a result
- 9 of such major disaster or emergency, including the causes
- 10 of such fatalities, based on data from—
- 11 (1) local and State jurisdictions;
- 12 (2) mortuary services that operated in the area
- of such major disaster or emergency; and
- 14 (3) forensics experts, anthropologists, and other
- resources the Administrator deems appropriate for
- 16 determining accurate and complete fatality and
- 17 missing persons data.
- 18 (g) Federal Reimbursements.—Not later than
- 19 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
- 20 ministrator of FEMA shall submit to the Committee on
- 21 Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on
- 22 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and
- 23 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
- 24 Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
- 25 Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of

1	Federal reimbursements owed to local and State govern-
2	ments for activities related to disaster recovery incurred
3	following a presidential declaration of a major disaster or
4	emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
5	and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)
6	in the years 2010 through 2017.
7	(h) Long-Term Recovery.—
8	(1) In General.—Not later than 240 days
9	after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
10	trator of FEMA, acting through the Office of Long-
11	Term Recovery, shall submit to the committees spec-
12	ified in paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (a)
13	a report that assesses the means of providing short-
14	and long-term housing for people impacted by feder-
15	ally declared disasters following September 11
16	2001, Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, and
17	Maria, and the Camp Fire (Paradise, California).
18	(2) Considerations.—The report required
19	under paragraph (1) shall consider—
20	(A) how mucking out of homes or property
21	post disaster occurred;
22	(B) how long it took for construction re-
23	pairs to be performed; and
24	(C) the adequacy of labor and materials to
25	meet demand and note any challenges to a

1	rapid recovery of housing and critical infra-
2	structure posed by materials supply, labor sup-
3	ply or contracting expertise in the disaster area.
4	(3) Assessment.—The report required under
5	paragraph (1) shall—
6	(A) assess the feasibility and efficiency of
7	providing long-term housing at hotels or other
8	equivalent daily rate accommodation;
9	(B) consider alternatives that may include
10	private residences, mass construction of tem-
11	porary housing, Federal property, or planned
12	communities for occupancy for under 5 years in
13	the event of significant loss of housing stock;
14	and
15	(C) make recommendations on how best to
16	resettle individuals who will be displaced from
17	homes permanently or for a long-term recovery
18	that will last 3 or more years.
19	SEC. 202. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.
20	(a) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 3 years
21	after the date of enactment of this Act, and biennially
22	thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States
23	shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
24	a report on the activities of the Office of Disaster Re-
25	sponse and the Office of Disaster Recovery, including rec-

1	ommendations and assessments of the effectiveness of the
2	offices.
3	(b) Office of Disaster Recovery Efforts Re-
4	PORT.—
5	(1) In general.—Not later than 2 years after
6	the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
7	General shall submit to the appropriate congres-
8	sional committees a report on long-term recovery ef-
9	forts following Hurricane Andrew, the attacks of
10	September 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane
11	Ike, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane
12	Maria, Hurricane Florence, and California wild fires.
13	(2) Content of Report.—The report shall
14	contain the following:
15	(A) Information on defining a long-term
16	recovery, the stages of a long-term recovery,
17	and the transition from Federal Government re-
18	sponsibilities for long-term recovery efforts to
19	State and local leadership.
20	(B) An assessment of the personnel need-
21	ed, and the types of expertise or certifications
22	required, to accomplish the administration and
23	management of recovery efforts for each of the
24	disasters described in subsection (a).

- 1 (C) An analysis of the success and effi-2 ciency of the long-term disaster recovery, and 3 best practices learned that may be applied to 4 future long-term disaster recovery plans.
 - (D) Recommendations of the Comptroller General for what should be defined as a long-term disaster recovery project using existing authority and responsibility of FEMA to advise and make recommendations to the President regarding Presidential Disaster Declarations.
 - (E) Recommendations of FEMA on the capacity and competence of FEMA to manage multiple major Presidential Disaster Declarations simultaneously of the magnitude of 3, 4, or all 5 of the disasters described in subsection (a) occurring within weeks of each other.
 - (F) FEMA's capability (as such term is defined in section 741 of title 6, United States Code) and capacities of the Federal Government to respond to a range of catastrophic events occurring either singularly or concurrently, including an assessment of the capacities of each Federal agency and the total capacity of the Federal Government.

1	(c) Pets.—Not later than 180 days after the date
2	of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
3	submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
4	port assessing the activity of the Federal Government re-
5	lating to—
6	(1) the Pets Evacuation and Transportation
7	Standards Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–308);
8	(2) disaster response resources for pets; and
9	(3) the activity of the Federal Government dur-
10	ing the 2017 hurricane season with respect to—
11	(A) evacuation, rescue, and boarding facili-
12	ties for animals;
13	(B) feeding and housing of animals; and
14	(C) transition to post-disaster placement of
15	animals.
16	(d) National All-Hazards Disaster Insurance
17	Program.—Not later than 320 days after the date of en-
18	actment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit
19	to Congress a report on—
20	(1) the feasibility and design of a national all-
21	hazards disaster insurance program;
22	(2) the risk of property owners continuing to
23	underinsure or have no insurance on homes and the
24	implications of those actions on the financial sta-
25	bility of the housing market;

1	(3) the challenge of developing actuarial tables
2	to determine premiums and the setting options for
3	premium payments for disaster declaration policies
4	to be collected annual, quarterly, or monthly; and
5	(4) the challenges and feasibility of selling poli-
6	cies at the same time a property casualty policy is
7	purchased.
8	(e) Homelessness.—Not later than 12 months
9	after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
10	thereafter, the Comptroller General shall submit to Con-
11	gress a report on homelessness that contains a collection
12	of data based upon registrations for disaster assistance.
13	information provided by National Voluntary Organizations
14	Active in Disaster, Bureau of the Census data, and other
15	sources that provide information on the state of homeless-
16	ness in an area impacted by a disaster. Such report
17	shall—
18	(1) include an analysis of individuals who were
19	housed or receiving housing assistance at the time of
20	the disaster and because of the disaster may be at
21	risk of homelessness;
22	(2) determine the best measures for assessing
23	the potential for homelessness during the long-term

recovery from a disaster; and

1	(3) make recommendations on how local and
2	State jurisdictions can identify the homeless during
3	disaster response and how to structure recovery ef-
4	forts to minimize homelessness.
5	(f) Peer-to-Peer Lodging.—Not later than 240
6	days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comp-
7	troller General shall submit to Congress a report on the
8	use of emergency disaster housing provided by peer-to-
9	peer lodging or short-term rental by FEMA staff and
10	other owners of peer-to-peer lodging who donate, rent, or
11	lease housing to individuals impacted by disasters during
12	2017 and 2018.
13	(g) Post-Disaster Civic Engagement.—Not later
14	than 8 months after the date of enactment of this Act
15	the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report
16	on civic engagement following a disaster, including 9/11
17	and Hurricanes Katrina, Harvey, Michael, Marie, and
	and Hurricanes Rauma, Harvey, Michael, Marie, and
18	Florence. The report shall—
18 19	•
	Florence. The report shall—
19	Florence. The report shall— (1) analyze how jurisdictions provided support
19 20	Florence. The report shall— (1) analyze how jurisdictions provided support for citizen voting after those events;
19 20 21	Florence. The report shall— (1) analyze how jurisdictions provided support for citizen voting after those events; (2) include analysis of the role that Federal,

1	(3) state any actions governments have taken
2	that have impeded civic participation in the form of
3	registering to vote and casting a ballot in a public
4	election; and
5	(4) make recommendations on what can be
6	done to protect voting by persons impacted by disas-
7	ters.
8	SEC. 203. CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY IMPACT FIRST RE-
9	SPONDERS DURING A TERRORIST EVENT.
10	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the
11	date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
12	of the United States shall submit to the Committee on
13	Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation
14	and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
15	the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
16	Affairs of the Senate a report that describes select State
17	and local programs and policies, as appropriate, related
18	to the preparedness and protection of first responders.
19	The report may include information on—
20	(1) the degree to which such programs and poli-
21	cies include consideration of the presence of a first
22	responder's family in an area impacted by a terrorist
23	attack;
24	(2) the availability of personal protective equip-
25	ment for first responders:

- 1 (3) the availability of home Medkits for first re-2 sponders and their families for biological incident re-3 sponse; and 4 (4) other related factors. 5 (b) Context.—In preparing the report required 6 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States may, as appropriate, provide information— 8 (1) in a format that delineates high risk urban 9 areas from rural communities; and 10 (2) on the degree to which the selected State 11 and local programs and policies included in such re-12 port were developed or are being executed with fund-13 ing from the Department of Homeland Security, in-14 cluding grant funding from the State Homeland Se-
- Initiative under sections 2002 and 2003, respectively, of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6

curity Grant Program or the Urban Area Security

19 (c) HOMELAND SECURITY CONSIDERATION.—After

U.S.C. 603; 604).

- 20 issuance of the report required under subsection (a), the
- 21 Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider such re-
- 22 port's findings and assess its applicability for Federal first
- 23 responders.

15

1 TITLE III—DISASTER RECOVERY

2 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT

3	PROGRAM
4	SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.
5	This title may be cited as the "Disaster Recovery
6	Small Business Grant Act".
7	SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.
8	In this title, the following definitions apply:
9	(1) Claim.—The term "claim" means a claim
10	by an injured concern under this title for payment
11	for substantial economic injury suffered by the in-
12	jured concern as a result of a federally declared dis-
13	aster.
14	(2) Claimant.—The term "claimant" means
15	an injured concern that submits a claim under sec-
16	tion 304(b).
17	(3) Administrator.—The term "Adminis-
18	trator" means the Administrator of the Small Busi-
19	ness Administration.
20	(4) Injured concern.—The term "injured
21	concern''—
22	(A) means a small business concern that is
23	located in an area that is a qualified disaster
24	area as a result of a federally declared disaster;
25	and

1	(B) does not include—
2	(i) a lender that holds a mortgage on
3	or security interest in real or personal
4	property affected by a federally declared
5	disaster; or
6	(ii) a person that holds a lien on real
7	or personal property affected by the a fed-
8	erally declared disaster.
9	(5) Office.—The term "Office" means the Of-
10	fice of Disaster Recovery Small Business Grants es-
11	tablished by section 303.
12	SEC. 303. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY SMALL BUSI-
13	NESS GRANTS.
14	(a) In General.—There is established within the
15	Small Business Administration an office to be known as
16	the "Office of Disaster Recovery Small Business Grants".
17	(b) Purpose.—The Office shall receive, process, and
18	pay claims in accordance with section 304.
19	(c) Funding.—The Office—
20	(1) shall be funded from funds made available
21	under this title; and
22	(2) may reimburse any other Federal agency
23	for provision of assistance in the receipt and proc-
24	occing of alaims
	essing of claims.

- 1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office may appoint and
 2 fix the compensation of such temporary personnel as
 3 are necessary to carry out the duties of the Office,
 4 without regard to the provisions of title 5, United
 5 States Code, governing appointments in the competi6 tive service.
- 7 (2) PERSONNEL FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—On
 8 the request of the Administrator, the head of any
 9 other Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable
 10 basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Fed11 eral Emergency Management Agency to assist the
 12 Office in carrying out the duties of the Office under
 13 this title.
- 14 (3) EFFECT ON OTHER SBA DUTIES.—The es-15 tablishment of the Office shall not diminish the au-16 thority of, or funding available to, the Administrator 17 to carry out the responsibilities of the Small Busi-18 ness Act.

19 SEC. 304. COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF A FEDERALLY

20 **DECLARED DISASTER.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each injured concern may receive 22 compensation for substantial economic injury suffered as 23 a result of a federally declared disaster, as determined by 24 the Administrator.

1	(b) Submission of Claims.—Not later than 1 year
2	after the date on which interim final regulations are pro-
3	mulgated under subsection (h), an injured concern may
4	submit to the Administrator a written claim for compensa-
5	tion for substantial economic injury suffered as a result
6	of a federally declared disaster.
7	(c) HANDLING OF CLAIMS.—The Administrator shall
8	investigate, adjust, grant, deny, settle, or compromise any
9	claim submitted under subsection (b).
10	(d) Amount of Grant.—
11	(1) In general.—Any grant made to an in-
12	jured concern—
13	(A) shall be limited to the amount nec-
14	essary to compensate the injured concern for
15	substantial economic injury described in para-
16	graph (2) suffered as a result of a federally de-
17	clared disaster during the period beginning on
18	August 25, 2017, and ending on August 25,
19	2029;
20	(B) shall not include—
21	(i) interest on the amount of the pay-
22	ment before the date of settlement or pay-
23	ment of a claim; or
24	(ii) punitive damages or any other
25	form of noncompensatory damages; and

1	(C) shall not exceed \$100,000, except in
2	the case of a grant application for which the
3	Administrator determines that a greater
4	amount up to \$250,000 is appropriate.
5	(2) Substantial economic injury.—Under
6	paragraph (1), an injured concern may receive pay-
7	ment for substantial economic injury consisting of 1
8	or more of the following:
9	(A) An uninsured or underinsured property
10	loss.
11	(B) Damage to or destruction of physical
12	infrastructure.
13	(C) Damage to or destruction of tangible
14	assets or inventory.
15	(D) A business interruption loss.
16	(E) Overhead costs.
17	(F) Employee wages for work not per-
18	formed.
19	(G) An insurance deductible.
20	(H) A temporary relocation expense.
21	(I) Debris removal and other cleanup
22	costs.
23	(J) Any other type of substantial economic
24	injury that the Administrator determines to be
25	appropriate.

1	(3) Burden of proof.—
2	(A) In general.—A claimant shall have
3	the burden of demonstrating substantial eco-
4	nomic injury.
5	(B) Absence of Documents.—If docu-
6	mentary evidence substantiating substantial
7	economic injury is not reasonably available, the
8	Administrator may pay a claim based on an af-
9	fidavit or other documentation executed by the
10	claimant.
11	(e) Payment of Claims.—
12	(1) Determination and payment of
13	AMOUNT.—
14	(A) In general.—To the maximum ex-
15	tent practicable, not later than 180 days after
16	the date on which a claim is submitted under
17	subsection (b), the Administrator shall—
18	(i) determine the amount, if any, to
19	be paid for the claim; and
20	(ii) pay the amount.
21	(B) Priority.—The Administrator may
22	establish priorities for processing and paying
23	claims based on—
24	(i) an assessment of the needs of the
25	claimants; and

1	(ii) any other criteria that the Admin-
2	istrator determines to be appropriate.
3	(C) Parameters of Determination.—
4	In determining and paying a claim, the Admin-
5	istrator shall determine only—
6	(i) whether the claimant is an injured
7	concern; and
8	(ii) whether the injuries that are the
9	subject of the claim resulted from a feder-
10	ally declared disaster.
11	(D) Insurance and other benefits.—
12	(i) In general.—Subject to clause
13	(ii), to prevent recovery by a claimant in
14	excess of the equivalent of actual amount
15	of the substantial economic injury suffered
16	by the claimant in accordance with sub-
17	section (d), the Administrator shall reduce
18	the amount to be paid for the claim by an
19	amount that is equal to the sum of the
20	payments or settlements of any kind that
21	were paid, or will be paid, with respect to
22	the claim, including payments by an insur-
23	ance company.
24	(ii) Government loans.—Clause (i
25	shall not apply to the receipt by a claimant

1	of any Federal, Tribal and Territorial,
2	State, or local government loan that is re-
3	quired to be repaid by the claimant.
4	(2) ADVANCE OR PARTIAL PAYMENTS.—At the
5	request of a claimant, the Administrator may make
6	1 or more advance or partial payments before the
7	final approval of a grant.
8	(f) Recovery of Funds Improperly Paid or Mis-
9	USED.—The Administrator may recover any portion of a
10	payment on a grant that was improperly paid to the claim-
11	ant as a result of—
12	(1) fraud or misrepresentation on the part of
13	the claimant or a representative of the claimant;
14	(2) a material mistake on the part of the Ad-
15	ministrator;
16	(3) the payment of insurance or benefits de-
17	scribed in subsection $(e)(1)(D)$ that were not taken
18	into account in determining the amount of the pay-
19	ment; or
20	(4) the failure of the claimant to cooperate in
21	an audit.
22	(g) Appeals of Decisions.—
23	(1) Right of appeal.—A claimant may appeal
24	a decision concerning payment of a claim by filing,
25	not later than 60 days after the date on which the

- 1 claimant is notified that the claim of the claimant
- 2 will or will not be paid, a notice of appeal in the case
- of a decision on a claim relating to a business loss,
- 4 with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
- 5 Management Administration.
- 6 (2) Period for Decision.—A decision con-
- 7 cerning an appeal under paragraph (1) shall be ren-
- 8 dered not later than 90 days after the date on which
- 9 the notice of appeal is received.
- 10 (h) REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
- 11 vision of law, not later than 45 days after the date of en-
- 12 actment of this title—
- 13 (1) the Administrator shall promulgate and
- publish in the Federal Register interim final regula-
- tions for the processing and payment of claims; and
- 16 (2) the Administrator and the Administrator of
- the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall
- jointly promulgate and publish in the Federal Reg-
- ister procedures under which a dispute concerning
- payment of a claim may be settled through an ap-
- 21 peals process described in subsection (g).
- (i) Public Information.—At the time of publica-
- 23 tion of interim final regulations under subsection (h), the
- 24 Administrator shall publish a clear, concise, and easily un-
- 25 derstandable explanation of the grant program established

- 1 under this title the procedural and other requirements of 2 the regulations promulgated under subsection (h). Such
- 3 explanation shall be—
- 4 (1) disseminated through brochures, pamphlets,
- 5 radio, television, the print news media, and such
- 6 other media as the Administrator determines to be
- 7 likely to reach prospective claimants; and
- 8 (2) provided in English, Spanish, and any other
- 9 language that the Administrator determines to be
- appropriate.
- 11 (j) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the
- 12 Administrator shall coordinate with the Administrator of
- 13 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, other Fed-
- 14 eral, State and local agencies, and any other individual
- 15 or entity, as the Administrator determines to be necessary
- 16 to ensure the efficient administration of the claims proc-
- 17 ess.
- 18 (k) Applicability of Debt Collection Require-
- 19 MENTS.—
- 20 (1) In General.—Section 3716 of title 31,
- 21 United States Code, shall not preclude any payment
- on a claim.
- 23 (2) Assignment and exemption from
- 24 CLAIMS OF CREDITORS.—

1	(A) Assignment.—No assignment, re-
2	lease, or commutation of a payment due or pay-
3	able under this title shall be valid.
4	(B) Exemption.—
5	(i) In General.—A payment under
6	this title shall be exempt from all claims of
7	creditors and from levy, execution, attach-
8	ment, or other remedy for recovery or col-
9	lection of a debt.
10	(ii) Nonwaivable exemption.—The
11	exemption provided by clause (i) may not
12	be waived.
13	SEC. 305. REPORTS AND AUDITS.
14	(a) Reports.—Not later than 1 year after the date
15	of promulgation of interim final regulations under section
16	304(h) and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall
17	submit to Congress a report that describes the claims sub-
18	mitted under section 304(b) during the year preceding the
19	date of submission of the report, including, with respect
20	to each claim—
21	(1) the amount claimed;
22	(2) a brief description of the nature of the
23	claim; and
24	(3) the status or disposition of the claim, in-
25	cluding the amount of any payment on the claim.

1	(b) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United
2	States shall—
3	(1) conduct an annual audit of the payment of
4	all claims submitted under section 304(b); and
5	(2) not later than 120 days after the date or
6	which the Administrator submits the initial report
7	required by subsection (a) and annually thereafter
8	submit to Congress a report on the results of the
9	audit.
10	SEC. 306. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
11	(a) In General.—There are authorized to be appro-
12	priated to carry out this title—
13	(1) to the Office of Disaster Recovery Small
14	Business Grants established under section 303 to
15	administer the claims process, \$25,000,000; and
16	(2) for payment of claims, \$975,000,000.
17	(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available under
18	subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.
19	SEC. 307. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.
20	The authority provided by this title terminates on the
21	date that is 20 years after the date of enactment of this
22	Act

TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE 1 **PROVISIONS** 2 3 SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES FOR PANDEMIC 4 AND ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS. 5 (a) Temporary Reassignment of State and LOCAL PERSONNEL DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMER-GENCY.—Section 319(e)(8) of the Public Health Service 7 8 Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended by striking 9 "2018" and inserting "2029". 10 (b) Exemption From Certain Disclosure Re-QUIREMENTS.—Section 319L(e)(1)(C) of the Public 11 12 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking "12 years after the date of enactment 13 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act" and inserting "12 years after the date of enactment of the FEMA Modernization Act of 2019". 16 SEC. 402. TRANSFER OF THE SURGE CAPACITY FORCE. 17 18 Section 303 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5143) is fur-20 ther amended by adding at the end the following: "(d) SURGE CAPACITY FORCE.— 21 22 "(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall— 23 "(A) prepare and submit to the appro-24 priate committees of Congress a plan to trans-25 fer the authority of the Surge Capacity Force

	10
1	for deployment of individuals to respond to nat-
2	ural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other
3	man-made disasters, including catastrophic inci-
4	dents; and
5	"(B) at such time as determined appro-
6	priate by the Administrator, transfer such au-
7	thority and continue the management and oper-
8	ation of the Surge Capacity Force.
9	"(2) Employees designated to serve.—
10	The plan shall include procedures under which the

- "(2) EMPLOYEES DESIGNATED TO SERVE.—
 The plan shall include procedures under which the Administrator shall designate employees Executive agencies, as appropriate, to serve on the Surge Capacity Force.
- "(3) Capabilities.—The plan shall ensure that the surge capacity force—
 - "(A) includes a sufficient number of individuals credentialed in accordance with section 510 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 320) that are capable of deploying rapidly and efficiently after activation to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, including catastrophic incidents; and

- "(B) includes a sufficient number of fulltime, highly trained individuals credentialed in accordance with such section to lead and manage the Surge Capacity Force.
 - "(4) Training.—The plan shall ensure that the Administrator provides appropriate and continuous training to members of the Surge Capacity Force to ensure such personnel are adequately trained on the Agency's programs and policies for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters.
 - "(5) NO IMPACT ON AGENCY PERSONNEL CEIL-ING.—Surge Capacity Force members shall not be counted against any personnel ceiling applicable to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
 - "(6) Expenses.—The Administrator may provide members of the Surge Capacity Force with travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5 for the purpose of participating in any training that relates to service as a member of the Surge Capacity Force.
 - "(7) Immediate implementation of surge capacity force involving federal employees.—As soon as practicable, the Administrator

- shall develop and implement any elements of the plan needed to establish the portion of the Surge Capacity Force consisting of individuals designated
- 4 under those procedures".