

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 255

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 26, 2023

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

AN ACT

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, 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 “Federal Disaster As-
3 sistance Coordination Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFOR-**
5 **MATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY**
6 **DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Re-
8 covery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **“SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE IN-**
11 **FORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY**
12 **DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.**

13 “(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2
14 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-
15 ministrator, in coordination with the Small Business Ad-
16 ministration, the Department of Housing and Urban De-
17 velopment, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the
18 Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Effi-
19 ciency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

20 “(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, con-
21 sistent with law, under which the collection of infor-
22 mation from disaster assistance applicants and
23 grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, ef-
24 ficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be
25 less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming
26 for applicants and grantees; and

1 “(2) develop a plan for the regular collection
2 and reporting of information on Federal disaster as-
3 sistance awarded, including the establishment and
4 maintenance of a website for presenting the informa-
5 tion to the public.

6 “(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not
7 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this sec-
8 tion, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council
9 of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency,
10 shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the
11 Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Manage-
12 ment and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Admin-
14 istration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant
15 Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and
16 other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers
17 necessary, to—

18 “(1) identify and describe the potential areas of
19 duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage
20 assessments after disaster declarations;

21 “(2) determine the applicability of having one
22 Federal agency make the assessments for all agen-
23 cies; and

24 “(3) identify potential emerging technologies,
25 such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with

1 the requirements established in the FEMA Account-
2 ability, Modernization and Transparency Act of
3 2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the admin-
4 istration of preliminary damage assessments.

5 “(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator
6 shall submit one comprehensive report that comprises the
7 plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and
8 a report of the findings of the working group convened
9 under subsection (b), which may include recommenda-
10 tions, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
11 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
12 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
13 Senate.

14 “(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive re-
15 port developed under subsection (c) shall be made avail-
16 able to the public and posted on the website of the Federal
17 Emergency Management Agency—

18 “(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable
19 versions that are made available in all appropriate
20 formats; and

21 “(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

22 “(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the
23 comprehensive report, any publication, database, or web-
24 based resource, and any information compiled by any gov-

1 ernment agency, nongovernmental organization, or other
2 entity that is made available may be used.

3 “(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after sub-
4 mission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of
5 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a des-
6 ignee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors Gen-
7 eral on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief,
8 upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on
9 the findings and any recommendations made in the com-
10 prehensive report.”.

11 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to
12 section 1223 in the table of contents of the FAA Reau-
13 thorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended
14 to read as follows:

“Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and pre-
liminary damage assessments.”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 25,
2023.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk.