

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 539

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2021

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

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Disaster  
3 Revictimization Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY.**

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

7 (1) by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as  
8 follows:

9 “(A) except as provided in subparagraph  
10 (B), shall—

11 “(i) waive a debt owed to the United  
12 States related to covered assistance pro-  
13 vided to an individual or household if the  
14 covered assistance was distributed based  
15 on an error by the Agency and such debt  
16 shall be construed as a hardship; and

17 “(ii) waive a debt owed to the United  
18 States related to covered assistance pro-  
19 vided to an individual or household if such  
20 assistance is subject to a claim or legal ac-  
21 tion, including in accordance with section  
22 317 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
23 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
24 U.S.C. 5160); and”;

25 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

1 (A) by striking “REMOVAL OF” and insert-  
2 ing “REPORT ON”; and

3 (B) in clause (ii) by striking “the authority  
4 of the Administrator to waive debt under para-  
5 graph (2) shall no longer be effective” and in-  
6 serting “the Administrator shall report to the  
7 Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-  
8 ture of the House of Representatives and the  
9 Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-  
10 mental Affairs of the Senate actions that the  
11 Administrator will take to reduce the error  
12 rate”.

13 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

14 The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-  
15 agement Agency shall submit to the Committee on Trans-  
16 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-  
17 tives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-  
18 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a de-  
19 scription of the internal processes used to make decisions  
20 regarding the distribution of covered assistance under sec-  
21 tion 1216 of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of  
22 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a) and any changes made to such  
23 processes.

1 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

2       The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
3 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
4 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
5 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
6 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
7 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
8 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
9 vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives June 15, 2021.

Attest:                   CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*