

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 255

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2023

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Disaster As-  
5 sistance Coordination Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFOR-**  
2 **MATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY**  
3 **DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.**

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

7 **“SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE IN-**  
8 **FORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY**  
9 **DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.**

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

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

24 “(2) develop a plan for the regular collection  
25 and reporting of information on Federal disaster as-  
26 sistance awarded, including the establishment and

1 maintenance of a website for presenting the informa-  
2 tion to the public.

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

15 “(1) identify and describe the potential areas of  
16 duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage  
17 assessments after disaster declarations;

18 “(2) determine the applicability of having one  
19 Federal agency make the assessments for all agen-  
20 cies; and

21 “(3) identify potential emerging technologies,  
22 such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with  
23 the requirements established in the FEMA Account-  
24 ability, Modernization and Transparency Act of

1       2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the admin-  
2       istration of preliminary damage assessments.

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

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

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

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

20      “(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the  
21      comprehensive report, any publication, database, or web-  
22      based resource, and any information compiled by any gov-  
23      ernment agency, nongovernmental organization, or other  
24      entity that is made available may be used.

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

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

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

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