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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To abolish FEMA and establish a block grant program for disaster relief,  
and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred  
to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To abolish FEMA and establish a block grant program for  
disaster relief, 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 “Sovereign States  
5       Emergency Management Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. ABOLISHMENT OF FEMA.**

7       (a) ABOLISHMENT.—The Federal Emergency Man-  
8       agement Agency is abolished effective on the date that is  
9       2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (b) UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Any funds made avail-  
2 able to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-  
3 agement Agency that are unobligated on the abolishment  
4 date described in subsection (a) shall be transferred to the  
5 general fund of the Treasury and made available to carry  
6 out the program established under section 2.

7 (c) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—All functions that  
8 immediately before the abolishment date specified in sub-  
9 section (a) are authorized to be performed by the Adminis-  
10 trator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
11 any other officer or employee of the Agency acting in that  
12 capacity, or any agency or office of the Agency, are trans-  
13 ferred to the President effective on such abolishment date.

14 (d) PERSONNEL AND ASSETS.—Except as otherwise  
15 provided in this Act, so much of the personnel, property,  
16 and records employed, used, held, available, or to be made  
17 available in connection with a function transferred to the  
18 President under subsection (c) shall be available to the  
19 President, at such time or times as the President directs  
20 for use in connection with the functions transferred.

21 (e) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any other Fed-  
22 eral law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation  
23 of authority, or any document of or pertaining to the Fed-  
24 eral Emergency Management Agency—

1 (1) to the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
2 gency Management Agency is deemed to refer to the  
3 President; or

4 (2) to the Federal Emergency Management  
5 Agency is deemed to refer to the Executive Office of  
6 the President.

7 **SEC. 3. DISASTER RELIEF BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
9 ury shall establish a program to provide grants to States  
10 for natural disaster and emergency relief.

11 (b) GRANT TERMS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program  
13 established under this section, the Secretary shall  
14 provide a grant to each State in an amount deter-  
15 mined in accordance with the formula established  
16 pursuant to paragraph (2).

17 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by  
19 rule, establish a formula for the allocation of  
20 grant funds to each State under this section.

21 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the  
22 formula under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
23 shall consider the following:

24 (i) Population size.

1 (ii) Historical disaster frequency and  
2 severity during the 20-year period pre-  
3 ceding the date of enactment of this Act.

4 (iii) Geographic risk factors (such as  
5 seismic zones, flood plains, hurricane-prone  
6 areas).

7 (iv) Economic need, as determined by  
8 per capita income.

9 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—A State may use a grant  
10 provided under this section to carry out—

11 (A) disaster preparedness training and ac-  
12 quire and maintain related equipment;

13 (B) response and recovery operations fol-  
14 lowing a natural disaster or emergency; and

15 (C) mitigation projects to reduce future  
16 disaster risks.

17 (4) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State may use  
18 not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to  
19 such State under this subsection for administrative  
20 costs.

21 (5) ALLOCATION.—The Secretary may not allo-  
22 cate grant funds to a State for a fiscal year under  
23 this section unless and until the Secretary, pursuant  
24 to subsection (c), approves the emergency manage-

1        ment plan submitted by such State for such fiscal  
2        year.

3        (c) STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Not  
4 later than April 1 of each year, each State shall develop  
5 and submit for approval by the Secretary an emergency  
6 management plan for the fiscal year beginning on October  
7 1 of such year, and such plan shall include—

8            (1) a description of how the State intends to  
9        use funds allocated under this section;

10          (2) documentation of coordination between the  
11       State, local governments, and Tribal authorities in  
12       developing and implementing such emergency man-  
13       agement plan; and

14          (3) measurable goals for disaster preparedness  
15       and response.

16        (d) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end  
17 of each fiscal year, each State shall submit to the Sec-  
18 retary a report describing—

19            (1) how funds allocated under this section were  
20       used during the preceding fiscal year;

21            (2) outcomes achieved with such funds, includ-  
22       ing improvements in preparedness metrics, response  
23       times, and completed mitigation projects; and

1           (3) the extent to which the State complied with  
2       the emergency management plan developed under  
3       subsection (c).

4       (e) DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.—The Secretary  
5       shall ensure that no State receives a grant under this sec-  
6       tion if such State receives assistance from any other Fed-  
7       eral source for the same purposes for which such a grant  
8       may be used.

9       (f) AUDIT.—Not less frequently than annually, the  
10      Secretary shall conduct an audit of the program estab-  
11      lished under this section and submit a report thereon to  
12      the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform,  
13      Homeland Security, and Transportation and Infrastruc-  
14      ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
15      on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the  
16      Senate.

17      (g) ADMINISTRATIVE AND AUDIT EXPENSES.—Of  
18      the amounts made available to carry out this section, 10  
19      percent shall be for expenses related to administering the  
20      program established under this section and 10 percent  
21      shall be for expenses related to carrying out the audit of  
22      such program required under subsection (f).

23      (h) TERMINATION.—The program established under  
24      this section shall terminate on the date that is 4 years

1 after the date on which the Secretary issues the rule re-  
2 quired by subsection (b)(2).

3 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) EMERGENCY.—The term “emergency”  
5 means an occasion or instance for which assistance  
6 is needed to save lives and to protect property and  
7 public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the  
8 threat of a catastrophe in any part of a State.

9 (2) NATURAL DISASTER.—The term “natural  
10 disaster” means any natural catastrophe (including  
11 any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water,  
12 winddriven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake,  
13 volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or  
14 drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or  
15 explosion, in any part of a State, for which assist-  
16 ance is needed to alleviate the damage, loss, hard-  
17 ship, or suffering caused thereby.

18 (3) STATE.—The term “State” any of the fifty  
19 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the  
20 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the  
21 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.