H. R. 1306

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act”.

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SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

“(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

“(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming for applicants and grantees; and

“(2) develop a plan for the regular collection and reporting of information on Federal disaster assistance awarded, including the establishment and
maintenance of a website for presenting the information to the public.

“(b) Preliminary Damage Assessments.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers necessary, to—

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

“(2) determine the applicability of having one Federal agency make the assessments for all agencies; and

“(3) identify potential emerging technologies, such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems, consistent with the requirements established in Public Law 115–87, to expedite the administration of preliminary damage assessments.
“(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit 1 comprehensive report that comprises the plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and a report of the findings of the working group convened under subsection (b), which may include recommendations, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive report developed under subsection (e) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—

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

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

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

“(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a des-
ignee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief, upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on the findings and any recommendations made in the comprehensive report.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 1223 in the table of contents of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments.”.