



1. [H.R. 1117 - To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster](#)
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# H.R. 1117 - To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster (Rep. Hartzler, R-MO)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-7819

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 7, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1117](#) would require Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to report to Congress on providing consistent guidance to applicants for disaster funding, record maintenance, and new technologies to assist in partnering with state and local governments.

## COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates “that implementing H.R. 1117 would cost less than \$500,000 in 2018; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.”

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

## DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 1117 would require Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare a report to Congress within 90 days covering the agencies plans on several issues, including:

1. Providing consistent guidance to applicants for disaster aid.
2. Appropriate record maintenance to new teams during staff transitions.
3. Accurate assistance to ease the administrative burden for applicants and grantees.
4. Ensuring the maintenance of appropriate records throughout the emergency or disaster.
5. New technologies to aid the partnerships with state and local governments to educate, assist, and inform applicants on their applications and projects.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H.R. 1117 was introduced on February 16, 2017 and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee marked up and reported the bill on [February 28, 2017](#) by a voice vote.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I: Section 8: Clause 3 The United States Congress shall have power “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.””

# H.R. 1214 - Disaster SAVE Act (Rep. Barletta, R-PA)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-7819

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 27, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1214](#) would increase the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) threshold use simplified procedures for public assistance to \$500,000 through September 30, 2021.

## COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that “the cost to implement H.R. 1214 would not exceed \$500,000 in any year and over the 2018-2022 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.”

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

## DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the federal government’s disaster assistance programs. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (as amended by the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act) allows FEMA to expedite assistance using simplified procedures for projects that are below a certain cost threshold. Under current policy, the threshold is \$130,100, which is adjusted annually with inflation

H.R. 1214 would increase FEMA’s simplified projects threshold for disaster assistance to \$500,000 through Fiscal Year 2021. This is expected to cover 98 percent of recovery projects. According to the [Committee Report](#), “FEMA testified on January 27, 2015, that increasing the simplified procedures threshold would result in lower administrative costs, faster project completions, and eliminate federal responsibility for project cost overruns.”

The bill would also require FEMA to submit a report to Congress on this change.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1214 was introduced on February 24, 2017 and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee marked up and reported the bill on [February 28, 2017](#) by a voice vote.

## ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress) and Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 (relating to interstate compacts).”

# H.R. 654 - Pacific Northwest Earthquake Preparedness Act of 2017 (Rep. DeFazio, D-OR)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-7819

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 27, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 654](#) would require Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a plan to install an earthquake warning system in the Pacific Northwest. The bill would require the president to establish an Earthquake and Tsunami Task Force to make recommendations regarding the threat of an earthquake or tsunami in the Pacific Northwest. The bill would also allow recipients of FEMA assistance to use funds for earthquake damage mitigation.

## COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting H.R. 654 “would cost less than \$500,000 annually over the 2018-2022 period.”

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

## DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a fault line in the Pacific Northwest.

H.R. 654 would require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a plan to purchase and install an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The bill would not authorize FEMA to purchase and install the system.

H.R. 654 would require the president to establish an Earthquake and Tsunami Task Force to make recommendations regarding the threat of an earthquake or tsunami in the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The task force would be chaired by the FEMA Administrator and the membership would include relevant federal agencies, the states of Washington, Oregon, and California, local governments and private sector representatives, and research institutions.

H.R. 654 would also allow the recipients of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance and Pre-disaster Mitigation Assistance to use those funds for earthquake disaster mitigation activities.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 654 was introduced on January 24, 2017 and was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [February 28, 2017](#) by a voice vote.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).”

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