



1. [H.R. 1665 - Disaster Declaration Improvement Act](#)
2. [H.R. 1679 - FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017](#)
3. [H.R. 1678 - To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act concerning the statute of limitations for actions to recover disaster or emergency assistance payments, and for other purposes](#)
4. [H. R. 1644 - Korean Interdiction and Modernization of Sanctions Act, as amended](#)

H.R. 1665 - Disaster Declaration Improvement Act (Rep. Davis, R-IL)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

May 2, 2017 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1665](#) would require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to give greater weight and consideration to severe local impact or recent multiple disasters when making recommendations to the president regarding making a major disaster declaration.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting H.R. 1665 would have no cost.

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. 1665 would require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to give greater weight and consideration to severe local impact or recent multiple disasters when making recommendations to the president regarding making a major disaster declaration. According to [CBO](#), "Under current law, FEMA considers the extent of both statewide and localized damage when determining whether to recommend that the President issue such a declaration."

The bill would also require a report from FEMA on the changes to regulations made pursuant to the bill as well as disasters that have been declared based on these changes.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1665 was introduced on March 22, 2017, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [March 29, 2017](#), by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

"Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution." This clause relates to Congress's power to establish Post Offices and post roads.

H.R. 1679 - FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017 (Rep. Graves, R-LA)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

May 2, 2017 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1679](#) would require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure the ongoing modernization of the disaster relief grant systems.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate for H.R. 1679 is not available at this time.

Sec. 3 of the bill specifies that no additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of the act and that such requirements shall be carried out using amounts already authorized.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

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. 1679 would require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure the ongoing modernization of the disaster relief grant systems, including:

- An online interface with online assistance for applicants;
- Mechanisms to eliminate duplication of benefits;
- Enabling information sharing between federal agencies and state, local and tribal government;
- And any other tools that the Administrator deems appropriate.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1679 was introduced on March 22, 2017, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [March 29, 2017](#), by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

"Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution." No specific enumerating clause was cited.

H.R. 1678 - To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act concerning the statute of limitations for actions to recover disaster or emergency assistance payments, and for other purposes (Rep. Frankel, D-FL)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

May 2, 2017 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1678](#) would limit the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) ability to recover disaster assistance grants that are unspent by state and local governments.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that "the net effect [of enacting H.R. 1678] on the deficit would be negligible".

Recoveries of unspent disaster assistance funds are scored as offsetting collection for purposes of the federal budget, meaning they are counted as negative direct spending. Therefore, this bill would increase mandatory spending. However, the CBO estimates that the amount of foregone recoveries would be insignificant in any year.

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:

Under current law, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is limited to taking administrative action to recover disaster assistance grants to three years after the transmission of the final expenditure report for the disaster or emergency. According to CBO, this means that "FEMA has the authority to recover disaster assistance grants that are unspent at any time after the date of disbursement."

H.R. 1678 would modify this statute of limitations to be three years after the transmission of the report for project completion as certified by the grantee.

The bill would apply this statute of limitations to disaster assistance provided on or after January 1, 2004 and require FEMA to terminate any pending action to recover funds provided on or after that date.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1678 was introduced on March 22, 2017, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [March 29, 2017](#), by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1 Section 8.” No specific enumerating clause was cited.

H. R. 1644 – Korean Interdiction and Modernization of Sanctions Act, as amended (Royce, R-CA)

CONTACT: [Brittan Specht](#), 202-226-9143

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be May 2, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1644](#) would expand sanctions against North Korea and individuals and entities involved in commerce with that country. The bill would expand sanctions related to weapons activities and human rights abuses.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) implementing H.R. 1644 would cost \$10 million over the 2017-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. In addition, enacting the bill would increase revenues by \$8 million and have insignificant effects on direct spending over the 2017-2027 period. Pay-as-you-go procedures apply because enacting the legislation would affect direct spending and revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

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?** The bill would grant the president significant discretion in the designation of individuals who are subject to sanctions, as well as in the application of sanctions. Further, the bill would relate determinations of prohibited activity to components of United Nations Security Council resolutions.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Expanded Sanctions

H.R. 1644 would require the president to designate certain persons as subject to U.S. sanctions, including prohibiting access to travel to the United States, freezing of U.S. assets, prohibiting business dealings with U.S. agencies, and other measures. Covered individuals would include individuals knowingly and willfully involved in trade with North Korea in certain minerals (including gold, titanium, copper, silver, zink, nickel, or rare earth minerals), those involved in trade of rocket or jet fuel (other than for fueling passenger planes en route to North Korea), or individuals supporting, insuring, or reinsuring North Korean flagged vessels.

The bill would also allow the president to further designate additional individuals for sanctions who are involved in the trade of iron ore, coal, or petroleum fuels in excess of amounts authorized by the United Nations Security Council. Sanctions could also apply to individuals involved in trade of telecommunications technology, textiles, fishing rights, or are involved in various North Korean industries, as well as other individuals at the president's discretion. The bill would further allow the president to choose to apply asset blocking sanctions to individuals designated at his discretion.

The bill would require the president to report to Congress within 180 days whether to designate, and if not, what the reasoning for not so designating, the following entities for sanctions: the Korea Shipowner's Protections and Indemnity Association; Chinpo Shipping Company; the Central Bank of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DRPK); Kumgang Economic Development Corporation; the Chamber of Commerce of the DRPK.

The bill would also expand sanctions to cover any individual who facilitates the transfer of hard currency to North Korea.

Financial Institutions

The bill would require U.S. financial institutions to prevent any correspondent account the institution knows that the account is being used to facilitate circumventing sanctions from being used for such purposes. The bill would further require the president to provide a briefing to Congress on each person or foreign government that the president determines has provided financial messaging services to North Korea.

Foreign Assistance

The bill would allow the president to withhold foreign assistance from any nation that provides defense articles to or receives such articles from North Korea.

Enhanced Inspections

The bill would require the president to report to Congress annually for five years on countries that do not sufficiently inspect or seize contraband cargo of North Korean ships or aircraft at seaports and airports. Such inspections and seizures are required pursuant to U.N. sanctions. The report would be required to identify foreign port operators that fail to inspect or seize cargo, describe the extent to which foreign port operators take appropriate action to de-register North Korean-owned vessels, describe compliance with requirements by Iran, identify vessels owned or operated by North Korean intelligence, and describe the diplomatic and enforcement efforts by the president to secure compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Report on Iran

The bill would require the president to submit an annual report to Congress for five years describing cooperation between North Korea and Iran regarding nuclear, chemical, and biological, as well as ballistic missile and conventional weapons systems. The report would include a determination as to whether such activities violate U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Human Rights Sanctions

H.R. 1644 would impose sanctions on individuals involved in forced labor in North Korea, including by prohibiting goods produced with forced labor from entering the United States and sanctioning individuals who employ North Koreans who face inhumane conditions or are denied wages. The bill would provide for the rebuttable presumption that all goods manufactured with North Korean labor are prohibited. Individuals subject to sanction would be blocked from conducting financial transactions in the U.S., as well as from traveling to or through the U.S. The president would be allowed to waive designation of an individual if he certifies to Congress that the employment of North Korean labor does not result in the transfer of currency or other items of value to the North Korean government, and that the wages of laborers are held in local accounts in local currency.

Miscellaneous Provisions

The bill would also provide for the president to be able to waive sanctions and designations of individuals for humanitarian purposes.

The bill would provide for rewards for individuals who serve as whistleblower informants who report non-compliance with sanctions.

The bill would require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a determination as to whether North Korea meets the criteria for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism,

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1644 was introduced on March 21 and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as the Committees on Ways and Means, the Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Government Reform, and Judiciary. The Committee on Foreign Affairs held a mark-up on March 29 and ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Read the report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs [here](#).

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States. No enumerating clause was included.

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