

H.R. 152, THE SANDY DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT

On Tuesday, January 15, 2013, the House passed in a vote of 241-180 a bill that provides roughly \$50 billion in aid for Hurricane Sandy victims and their communities. Below is a summary of key provisions in the bill:

FEMA Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) – \$11.9 billion

Funding from the DRF serves as the most immediate source of relief and recovery funds available to individuals, families, and communities to support ongoing recovery through affected areas. This includes assistance such as temporary housing, crisis counseling, and disaster unemployment assistance. It also supports funding for public assistance to local communities and certain nonprofits for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repair, as well as replacement, and restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly-owned facilities and the facilities of certain nonprofit organizations.

- *An amendment passed by Rep. Huelskamp (R-KS) requires FEMA to disclose all disaster relief grants and mission assignments on the FEMA website within 24 hours of award.*

Department of Transportation – \$12.9 billion

This includes \$5.4 billion for Federal Transit Authority Emergency Relief to aid the four major affected transit agencies –New York’s MTA, the Port Authority of NY/NJ, New Jersey Transit, and the City of New York DOT Ferries. It also includes \$7.5 billion for a range of transportation programs and repairs to Sandy-related damage to roads, bridges and tunnels through the Federal Highway Administration’s Emergency Relief Program as well as the repair backlog for previous disasters. It will also support repairs, replacement, and reconstruction for various transportation infrastructure: Federal Aviation Administration facilities and equipment; Amtrak rails and equipment; and affected public transportation infrastructure in the New York City metropolitan area (including the Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey, New Jersey Transit, and ferries operated by the New York City Department of Transportation).

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – \$16 billion

This funding through HUD’s Community Development Fund will support critical and immediate community needs, including repairs to damage sustained by publicly owned hospitals, local roads and utilities, small businesses, etc. It will help state and local governments meet their needs for critical infrastructure like hospitals, utilities and roads, repairs for small businesses, rental assistance, and other community development projects.

Army Corps of Engineers – \$5.25 billion

This funding will help restore navigation channels, beaches, and other damaged infrastructure to pre-storm conditions. Additionally, the bill will provide funds to continue response and recovery activities for flood control, coastal emergency projects, and emergency dredging. Also, it will allow for the Army Corps to restore coastlines, navigation channels, and other damaged infrastructure to pre-storm conditions, and assist with dredging and sustainability, as well as repairs and authorized improvements to flood control efforts in the affected areas.

- *An amendment passed by Reps. Campbell (R-CA) / Blumenauer (D-OR) clarifies that Corps of Engineers cost-share provisions only apply to the funds provided by this bill.*

Department of the Interior – \$830.2 million

This funding will help repair national parks, lands and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior that sustained damage during Hurricane Sandy, including funding for immediate repair and recovery needs for national wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries along the East Coast, and

National Parks, including the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. This funding will also go to the Fish and Wildlife Service for debris removal. It will also fund repairs to buildings and facilities, including national parks, fish hatcheries, and other sites.

- *An amendment passed by Rep. Fleming (R-LA) cuts \$9.8 million in Fish and Wildlife Services Construction funding, and prohibits the use of remaining funds to repair seawalls or buildings on islands in the Stewart McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. The number above takes this cut into account.*

Environmental Protection Agency - \$607 million

This funding will make EPA state grants for water and wastewater treatment infrastructure and environmental mediation possible.

Department of Justice - \$21 million

Funding will go toward repair of damaged facilities and expenses incurred by the FBI, DEA, and Federal Prison System.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration- \$15 million

Funding will go toward restoration of NASA facilities damaged during the storm.

Department of Defense - \$88.3 million

This funding will support the Department of Defense as it works to repair military equipment and various facilities such as bases, arsenals, ammunition plants and other installations.

Small Business Administration – \$811 million

This funding is for the SBA Disaster Loan Program to provide timely, low-interest financing for the repair and rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property for homeowners, renters, and businesses. This funding would also provide grants to assist small businesses affected by Hurricane Sandy with disaster recovery and response problems.

Department of Labor - \$25 million

Funding will support dislocated workers expenses and can be used for other purposes such as worker protection activities and recovery needs.

Department of Health and Human Services – \$800 million

This funding will go toward the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund for disaster response and recovery efforts, including funding for the Social Services Block Grant program for repairs to social services facilities, repairs to Head Start centers, replacement of equipment and resource losses within National Institute of Health studies, etc. This funding will support health services, including mental health treatment and the repair of health and child care facilities, damaged Head Start facilities, and other social services buildings and equipment, including the National Institutes of health (NIH).

Department of Agriculture - \$224 million

This funding will support replenishing stocks at food banks and soup kitchens in the areas affected by Sandy, via the Commodity Assistance Program through the Food and Nutrition Service. It will also go to emergency conservation and restoration efforts, as well as flood prevention and watershed repairs.

Department of Veterans Affairs – \$236 million

This funding will go to repairs and reconstruction at the Manhattan VA hospital and other VA medical facilities, which sustained significant flood damage during the storm.

- *An amendment passed by Rep. Velazquez (D-NY) provides \$1 million in additional funding to the VA National Cemetery Administration, offset by a \$1 million cut to the Small Business Administration's Disaster Loans Program bringing the total provided to VA cemeteries for repairs and clean-up to \$2.1 million. The numbers in this document reflect those changes.*

National Guard – \$24.2 million

This funding will provide for repairs of a variety of Army National Guard buildings and structures damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Coast Guard - \$144 million

This will support Coast Guard operations and construction needed as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

Department of Commerce - \$475.85 million

The majority of this funding will go to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve severe weather forecasts and warnings, to assess the impacts of Hurricane Sandy on coastal communities, and to support local recovery efforts. Other funding will help NOAA replace and repair property and equipment damaged during the storm.

- *An amendment passed by Rep. Flores (R-TX) cuts \$150 million for the NOAA's Regional Ocean Partnership grants. The number above reflects the cut.*