

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prohibit recipients of disaster recovery relief assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from penalizing applicants that declined assistance from the Small Business Administration.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

---

**A BILL**

To prohibit recipients of disaster recovery relief assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from penalizing applicants that declined assistance from the Small Business Administration.

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 "Disaster Assistance  
5 Simplification Act".

6 **SEC. 2. DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS FOR DISASTER RELIEF.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (1) the term "Administration" means the Small  
2 Business Administration; and

3 (2) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary  
4 of Housing and Urban Development.

5 (b) PROHIBITIONS.—With respect to a grant pro-  
6 vided to a grantee under title I of the Housing and Com-  
7 munity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)  
8 related to a major disaster declared by the President  
9 under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
10 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), the  
11 Secretary and the grantee shall not—

12 (1) take into consideration whether an appli-  
13 cant for assistance from the grantee applied and was  
14 approved for, but declined, assistance related to the  
15 major disaster from the Administration under sec-  
16 tion 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
17 636(b)); or

18 (2) reduce the amount provided to an applicant  
19 described in paragraph (1) by any amount that the  
20 applicant would have received from the Administra-  
21 tion if the applicant had not declined the assistance.

22 (c) APPLICATION.—Subsection (b) shall apply with  
23 respect to applicants for assistance from a grantee under  
24 title I of the Housing and Community Development Act  
25 of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) with respect to a major

1 disaster declared by the President under section 401 of  
2 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
3 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) who applied for assistance  
4 from the Administration under section 7(b) of the Small  
5 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) related to the major dis-  
6 aster before, on, or after the date of enactment of this  
7 Act.