



H.R. 6109 – PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6109 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative James Oberstar (D-MN) on May 21, 2008. The bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote of Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 22, 2008.

H.R. 6109 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6109 amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288) to increase the funds made available to States for pre-disaster mitigation from \$500,000 to \$575,000 for a fiscal year. This legislation requires financial assistance to States to be awarded on a competitive basis. In addition, the maximum amount of funds available for a State in any fiscal year may not exceed 15 percent of the total funds under this provision.

This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$250 million for each of the fiscal years 2009-2011.

BACKGROUND

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288) was enacted in 1988. This legislation established the system by which a Presidential Disaster Declaration authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide financial and physical assistance in the case of an emergency.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program is a grant program administered by FEMA that provides assistance for planning and implementation of hazard mitigation projects prior to a disaster. Grants are available to States, territories, Indian tribal governments, local governments, and universities on a competitive basis. There are additional, similar grant programs operated by FEMA, including the Flood Mitigation Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Repetitive Flood Claims program, and Severe Repetitive Loss program.

FEMA is a component agency of the Department of Homeland Security. The agency is responsible for coordinating federal disaster relief efforts when state and local authorities are overwhelmed, as declared by a state's Governor and verified by the President. FEMA has responded to the September 11th terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and most recently, the flooding in Iowa.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) "estimates that implementing H.R. 6109 would cost \$700 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$50 million after 2013, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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