

HR 219

Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: Jan 14, 2013

Current Status: Indefinitely postponed by Senate by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S9115)

Latest Action: Indefinitely postponed by Senate by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S9115) (Dec 20, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/219>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Denham, Jeff [R-CA-10]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Bishop, Timothy H. [D-NY-1]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]	R · MD		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. LoBiondo, Frank A. [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II [D-WV-3]	D · WV		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9]	R · PA		Jan 14, 2013
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jan 14, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 15, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 152	Related bill	Jan 29, 2013: Became Public Law No: 113-2.

Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 - Amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to approve public assistance projects for major disasters or emergencies under alternative procedures with the goal of: (1) reducing the costs to the federal government of providing such assistance; (2) increasing flexibility in the administration of assistance; (3) expediting the provision of assistance to a state, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility; and (4) providing financial incentives and disincentives for the timely and cost-effective completion of projects.

Requires such alternative procedures, with respect to grants for facility repair, restoration, or replacement, to allow: (1) such grants to be made on the basis of fixed estimates if the state, tribal, or local government or the owner or operator of the private nonprofit facility agrees to be responsible for any actual costs that exceed the estimate; (2) a grantee to elect to receive an in-lieu contribution, without reduction, on the basis of estimates of the cost to repair, restore, reconstruct, or replace a facility and management expenses; (3) consolidating state, local, or tribal facilities as a single project; and (4) the Administrator to permit a grantee, when completed project costs are less than the estimated costs, to use excess funds for activities that reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, or suffering from a major disaster and for other activities to improve future public assistance operations or planning.

Requires such alternative procedures, with respect to grants for debris removal, to allow: (1) such grants to be made on the basis of fixed estimates to provide financial incentives and disincentives for the timely or cost-effective completion if the grantee agrees to be responsible for any actual costs that exceed the estimate; (2) use of a sliding scale for determining the federal share for removal of debris and wreckage based on the time it takes to complete; (3) use of program income from recycled debris without offset to the grant amount; (4) reimbursement of wages for grantee employees and extra hires performing or administering debris and wreckage removal; (5) incentives to a state, local, or tribal government to have a debris management plan approved by the Administrator and to have pre-qualified contractors before the date of declaration of the major disaster; and (6) the Administrator to permit a grantee, when actual project costs are less than estimated costs, to use the excess funds for debris management planning, acquisition of debris management equipment for current or future use, and other activities to improve future debris removal operations.

Authorizes the President to enter into lease agreements for, and make repairs or improvements to, multifamily rental property located in areas covered by a major disaster declaration when the President determines it would be a cost-effective alternative to other temporary housing options.

Directs the President, for purposes of hazard mitigation assistance, to ensure that: (1) environmental reviews and historic preservation reviews are completed on an expeditious basis; and (2) the shortest existing applicable process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act is utilized. Authorizes the President to provide not more than 25% of the amount of the estimated cost of hazard mitigation measures to a state grantee before eligible costs are incurred.

Directs the Administrator to establish procedures under which an applicant, through December 31, 2015, may request the use of alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration by an independent review panel to resolve disputes relating to eligible assistance.

Directs the President to: (1) establish a unified interagency review process to ensure compliance with environmental and historic requirements relating to disaster recovery projects in order to expedite the recovery process; and (2) complete an

analysis to determine whether an increase in the threshold for eligibility for the provision of federal disaster or emergency assistance on the basis of the amount of the federal estimate of assistance necessary is appropriate and, if so, to establish such threshold, adjust it annually for inflation, and review it every three years.

Authorizes the President: (1) to provide child care assistance to an individual or household adversely affected by a major disaster; and (2) after declaring a major disaster or emergency for an area within the jurisdiction of a state, tribal, or local government, to reimburse such government for costs relating to basic pay and benefits and overtime and hazardous duty compensation for permanent employees of such government conducting emergency protective measures.

Requires the Administrator to: (1) review, update, and revise factors relating to trauma to measure the severity, magnitude, and impact of a disaster; and (2) submit recommendations for the development of a national strategy for reducing future costs, loss of life, and injuries associated with extreme disaster events in vulnerable areas of the United States.

Authorizes Indian tribal governments to submit requests for major disaster or emergency declarations directly to the President.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 20, 2013:** Indefinitely postponed by Senate by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S9115)
- **Jan 29, 2013:** For Further Action See H.R.152.
- **Jan 22, 2013:** Received in the Senate.
- **Jan 15, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.
- **Jan 15, 2013:** Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 23, in the engrossment of H.R. 152, the text of H.R. 219 as passed by the House, was added as new matter at the end of H.R. 152 and the title of H.R. 152 was conformed to reflect the additional matter.
- **Jan 14, 2013:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 14, 2013:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
- **Jan 14, 2013:** Mr. Denham moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jan 14, 2013:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H65-72)
- **Jan 14, 2013:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 219.
- **Jan 14, 2013:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jan 14, 2013:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H73)
- **Jan 14, 2013:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 403 - 0 (Roll no. 8).(text: CR H65-68)
- **Jan 14, 2013:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 403 - 0 (Roll no. 8). (text: CR H65-68)
- **Jan 14, 2013:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.