

S 870

Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: Mar 26, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Sponsor int

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Sponsor

introductory remarks on measure: CR S2047-2048; text of measure as introduced: CR S2048) (Mar 26, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/870>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

Party: Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		Mar 26, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 26, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1685	Identical bill	Mar 27, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act of 2015

Requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to amend the rules concerning the factors it considers when evaluating a governor's request for a major disaster declaration to provide that, with respect to the evaluation of the need for public assistance: (1) specific weighted valuations shall be assigned to the estimated cost of the assistance (10%), localized impacts (40%), insurance coverage in force (10%), hazard mitigation (10%), recent multiple disasters (10%), programs of other federal assistance (10%), and economic circumstances (10%); and (2) FEMA shall consider the economic circumstances of both the local economy of the affected area (including the local assessable tax base and local sales tax, median income, and poverty rate) and the state economy (including the unemployment rate).

Requires such rules to provide that, with respect to the evaluation of the severity, magnitude, and impact of the disaster and the evaluation of the need for assistance to individuals: (1) specific weighted valuations shall be assigned to concentration of damages (20%), trauma (20%), special populations (20%), voluntary agency assistance (10%), insurance (20%), average amount of individual assistance by state (5%), and economic considerations (5%); and (2) FEMA shall consider the economic circumstances of the affected area (including the local assessable tax base and local sales tax, median income, and poverty rate).

Makes such rules applicable to any disaster for which a governor requested a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and was denied on or after January 1, 2012.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 26, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 26, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2047-2048; text of measure as introduced: CR S2048)