

## S 3534

Pandemic Disaster Assistance Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Emergency Management

**Introduced:** Mar 19, 2020

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Mar 19, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3534>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 19, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Emergency Management

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6687	Related bill	<b>May 4, 2020:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

## **Pandemic Disaster Assistance Act of 2020**

This bill authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide direct assistance to individuals who have been impacted by a pandemic.

Specifically, at the discretion of a governor or the President, individuals impacted by a pandemic will be eligible to apply directly to federal agencies for various forms of assistance, including (1) assistance under the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program; (2) assistance under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program; and (3) other needs assistance through FEMA's Individual Assistance program, including medical, funeral, and child care assistance.

With respect to the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program, the Department of Agriculture must provide options other than an in-person interview.

With respect to the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program, the bill creates a national floor for benefits at 1.5 times the national weekly average and provides a waiver to the requirement to exhaust state unemployment insurance options.

## **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Mar 19, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 19, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.