

S 1617

Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: May 13, 2021

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 117-249.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 117-249. (Dec 20, 2022)

Law: 117-249 (Enacted Dec 20, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1617>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]

Party: Republican • **State:** ID • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		May 13, 2021
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		May 13, 2021
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		May 13, 2021
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		May 13, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Senate	Reported By	Feb 17, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 3192	Identical bill	May 13, 2021: Referred to the House Committee on Small Business.

Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act

This bill authorizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) to declare a disaster in rural areas where significant damage has been incurred for the purpose of providing certain assistance.

A *rural area* is a county or political subdivision designated as such by the Census Bureau. *Significant damage* means uninsured losses of not less than 40% of the fair replacement value or pre-disaster fair market value of the damaged property (whichever is less).

For a rural area where the President has declared a major disaster, the SBA may declare a disaster for the purpose of providing economic injury disaster loans if (1) the state or tribal government wherein the rural area is located requests the declaration; and (2) any home, small business, private nonprofit organization, or small agricultural cooperative has incurred significant damage.

The Government Accountability Office must report on (1) any unique challenges to communities in rural areas compared to communities in urbanized areas when seeking economic injury disaster assistance, and (2) any legislative recommendations for improving access to disaster assistance for communities in rural areas.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 20, 2022:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 20, 2022:** Became Public Law No: 117-249.
- **Dec 16, 2022:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 8, 2022:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H8853-8854)
- **Dec 8, 2022:** 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): 406 - 8 (Roll no. 517).(text: 12/05/2022 CR H8741)
- **Dec 8, 2022:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 406 - 8 (Roll no. 517). (text: 12/05/2022 CR H8741)
- **Dec 8, 2022:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 5, 2022:** Ms. Velazquez moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 5, 2022:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H8741-8742)
- **Dec 5, 2022:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 1617.
- **Dec 5, 2022:** DEBATE - The House resumed debate on S. 1617.
- **Dec 5, 2022:** 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.
- **Sep 29, 2022:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 29, 2022:** Received in the House.
- **Sep 29, 2022:** Held at the desk.
- **Sep 28, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.(consideration: CR S5165; text: CR S5165)
- **Sep 28, 2022:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote. (consideration: CR S5165; text: CR S5165)
- **May 3, 2022:** By Senator Cardin from Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship filed written report. Report No. 117-103.
- **Feb 17, 2022:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Reported by Senator Cardin with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Feb 17, 2022:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 278.
- **Feb 15, 2022:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **May 13, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 13, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.