

S 4159

FEMA Equity Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: May 5, 2022

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. (May 5, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4159>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 5, 2022
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		May 5, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 5, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7668	Related bill	May 9, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

Federal Emergency Management Advancement of Equity Act or the FEMA Equity Act

This bill addresses equity in federal disaster assistance policies and programs. It allows, in some instances, counties to request disaster declarations.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must develop and implement a process to ensure equity in the provision of federal assistance and throughout all FEMA programs and policies. Additionally, FEMA must establish metrics to measure the efficacy of the process and seek input from relevant representatives of state, regional, local, and tribal governments; community-based organizations; subject matter experts; and individuals from underserved communities impacted by disasters.

FEMA must designate a senior official as an equity advisor. The bill establishes in FEMA an Equity Enterprise Steering Group.

The chief executive officer of an affected county may submit a request for a presidential declaration that a major disaster exists if (1) the governor of the state or territory in which the county is located does not request such a declaration, (2) the affected county is not included in a request for assistance made by such governor, or (3) the affected county communicates with that governor about the disaster or potential request for a major disaster declaration before the relevant period has lapsed.

The Government Accountability Office shall issue a report describing the factors that FEMA considers when evaluating a request from a governor to declare that a major disaster or emergency exists and to authorize specified assistance.

Actions Timeline

- **May 5, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
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