

S 4599

Disaster Assistance Simplification Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: Jul 21, 2022

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 505.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 505. (Sep 27, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4599>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Jul 21, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 27, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Disaster Assistance Simplification Act

This bill directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to establish a web-based, interagency electronic information system to be known as *DisasterAssistance.gov* to provide for a universal disaster application across federal agencies.

Specifically, such system shall

- facilitate a consolidated application for any form of disaster assistance provided by a disaster assistance agency;
- carry out the purposes of disaster assistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably, and in accordance with specified laws and privacy and data protections; and
- support the detection, prevention, and investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, or discrimination in the administration of disaster assistance programs.

DisasterAssistance.gov shall permit (1) applicants to receive status updates and update disaster assistance information throughout their recovery, and (2) the distribution of additional recovery resource information to survivors that may be available in a disaster stricken jurisdiction. Further, it shall provide disaster survivors with information and documentation on applications.

FEMA shall facilitate the collection of disaster assistance information into *DisasterAssistance.gov* only after (1) it certifies that the website substantially complies with specified data security standards and any other applicable federal information security policy, (2) the Department of Homeland Security publishes a privacy impact assessment, and (3) FEMA publishes standard rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies and personnel to protect information from improper disclosure.

FEMA may certify a federal agency as a disaster assistance agency after posting an agreement that contains the detailed terms of the agreement.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 27, 2022:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Peters with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 117-163.
- **Sep 27, 2022:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 505.
- **Aug 3, 2022:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 21, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 21, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.