

HR 7668

FEMA Equity Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: May 6, 2022

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. (May 9, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/7668>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]

Party: Democratic • State: MS • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		May 6, 2022
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jun 16, 2022
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jun 16, 2022
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jun 16, 2022
Rep. Underwood, Lauren [D-IL-14]	D · IL		Oct 21, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	May 6, 2022
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	May 9, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 4159	Related bill	May 5, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

This bill addresses equity in federal disaster assistance policies and programs.

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 9, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.
- **May 6, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **May 6, 2022:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.