

S 1528

Disaster Assistance Simplification Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: May 10, 2023

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Aug 4, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1528>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		May 10, 2023
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		May 10, 2023
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 18, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jun 13, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 1528	Related bill	Aug 4, 2023: Held at the desk.

Disaster Assistance Simplification Act

This bill directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop and establish a unified intake process and system for applicants for assistance provided by a disaster assistance agency.

The system must

- facilitate a consolidated application for any form of disaster assistance provided by a disaster assistance agency when appropriate to support the nature and purposes of the assistance;
- 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.

Further, the system must, among other things

- accept applications for disaster assistance programs;
- permit applicants to receive status updates on such applications;
- allow applicants to update disaster assistance information throughout their recovery journeys;
- permit the distribution of information on additional recovery resources to disaster survivors that may be available in a disaster-stricken jurisdiction in coordination with appropriate federal, state, local, and tribal partners; and
- permit disaster assistance agencies to communicate directly with disaster survivors.

Not later than 30 days after receiving a request from a disaster assistance agency to update questions in the consolidated application needed to administer the disaster assistance programs of the agency, FEMA must make those updates.

The bill (1) sets forth requirements for reports by FEMA and by the Government Accountability Office, and (2) provides for congressional briefings under specified circumstances.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 4, 2023:** Received in the House.
- **Aug 4, 2023:** Held at the desk.
- **Jul 28, 2023:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 27, 2023:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S3839-3843)
- **Jul 27, 2023:** The committee amendments agreed to by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jul 27, 2023:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S3841-3843)
- **Jul 27, 2023:** Passed Senate with amendments by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S3841-3843)
- **Jun 13, 2023:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Peters with amendments. With written report No. 118-39.
- **Jun 13, 2023:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 93.
- **May 17, 2023:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **May 10, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 10, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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