

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 8266
OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO OF OREGON**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “FEMA Assistance Re-
3 lief Act of 2020”.

4 SEC. 2. COST SHARE.

5 (a) TEMPORARY FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwith-
6 standing sections 403(b), 403(c)(4), 404(a), 406(b),
7 408(d), 408(g)(2), 428(e)(2)(B), and 503(a) of the Robert
8 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), for any emergency or major dis-
10 aster declared by the President under such Act during the
11 period beginning on January 1, 2020 and ending on De-
12 cember 31, 2020, the Federal share of assistance provided
13 under such sections shall be not less than 90 percent of
14 the eligible cost of such assistance.

15 (b) COST SHARE UNDER COVID EMERGENCY DEC-
16 LARATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), assistance
17 provided under the emergency declaration issued by the
18 President on March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 501(b)

1 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
2 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)), and under any subse-
3 quent major disaster declaration under section 401 of such
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes such emergency
5 declaration, shall be at a 100 percent Federal cost share.

6 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the emergency declared on
8 March 13, 2020 by the President under section 501 of
9 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
10 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191), the President may provide
11 assistance for activities, costs, and purchases of States,
12 Indian tribal governments, or local governments, includ-
13 ing—

14 (1) activities eligible for assistance under sec-
15 tions 301, 415, 416, and 426 of the Robert T. Staf-
16 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 5141, 5182, 5183, 5189d);

18 (2) backfill costs for first responders and other
19 essential employees who are ill or quarantined;

20 (3) increased operating costs for essential gov-
21 ernment services due to such emergency, including
22 costs for implementing continuity plans, and shel-
23 tering or housing for first responders, emergency
24 managers, health providers and other essential em-
25 ployees;

- 1 (4) costs of providing guidance and information
2 to the public and for call centers to disseminate such
3 guidance and information, including private non-
4 profit organizations;
- 5 (5) costs associated with establishing and oper-
6 ating virtual services;
- 7 (6) costs for establishing and operating remote
8 test sites, including comprehensive community based
9 testing;
- 10 (7) training provided specifically in anticipation
11 of or in response to the event on which such emer-
12 gency declaration is predicated;
- 13 (8) personal protective equipment and other
14 critical supplies and services for first responders and
15 other essential employees, including individuals
16 working in public schools, courthouses, and public
17 transit systems;
- 18 (9) medical equipment, regardless of whether
19 such equipment is used for emergency or inpatient
20 care;
- 21 (10) public health costs, including provision and
22 distribution of medicine and medical supplies;
- 23 (11) costs associated with maintaining alternate
24 care facilities or related facilities currently inactive

1 but related to future needs tied to the ongoing pan-
2 demic event;

3 (12) costs of establishing and operating shelters
4 and providing services, including transportation, that
5 help alleviate the need of individuals for shelter; and

6 (13) costs, including costs incurred by private
7 nonprofit organizations, of procuring and distrib-
8 uting food to individuals affected by the pandemic
9 through networks established by State, local, or
10 Tribal governments, or other organizations, includ-
11 ing restaurants and farms, and for the purchase of
12 food directly from food producers and farmers.

13 (b) APPLICATION TO SUBSEQUENT MAJOR DIS-
14 ASTER.—The activities described in subsection (a) may
15 also be eligible for assistance under any major disaster de-
16 clared by the President under section 401 of such Act (42
17 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes the emergency declaration
18 described in such subsection.

19 (c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FUNERAL EX-
20 PENSES.—For any emergency or major disaster described
21 in subsection (a) or (b), the President shall provide finan-
22 cial assistance to an individual or household to meet dis-
23 aster-related funeral expenses under section 408(e)(1) of
24 such Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(e)).

25 (d) ADVANCED ASSISTANCE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to facilitate activities
2 under this section, the President, acting through the Ad-
3 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
4 cy, may provide assistance in advance to an eligible appli-
5 cant if a failure to do so would prevent the applicant from
6 carrying out such activities.

7 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall sub-
8 mit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
9 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
10 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs a report
11 on assistance provided in advance pursuant to paragraph
12 (1).

13 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion shall be construed to make ineligible any assistance
15 that would otherwise be eligible under section 403, 408,
16 or 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5192).

17 (f) STATE; INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL
18 GOVERNMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms
19 “State”, “Indian tribal government”, and “local govern-
20 ment” have the meanings given such terms in section 102
21 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
22 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

