

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7070

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of certain mitigation projects, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2024

Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of certain mitigation projects, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wildfire Response Im-  
5 provement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POL-**  
2 **ICY.**

3 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
4 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency  
5 Management Agency shall recommend such regulations or  
6 guidance as are necessary to make eligible assessments  
7 and emergency stabilization to protect public safety, in-  
8 cluding for the fire management assistance program under  
9 section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
10 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), irrespective  
11 of the incident period for a declared fire.

12 **SEC. 3. CHANGES TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE POLICY GUIDE.**

13 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
14 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency  
15 Management Agency shall amend the Public Assistance  
16 Program and Policy Guide of the Federal Emergency  
17 Management Agency to include guidance on wildfire-spe-  
18 cific recovery challenges, including debris removal, emer-  
19 gency protective measures, and the resulting toxicity of  
20 drinking water resources.

21 **SEC. 4. MITIGATION COST-EFFECTIVENESS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal  
23 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a review of  
24 the criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of projects  
25 intended to mitigate the impacts of wildfire under sections  
26 203 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief

1 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c),  
2 including—

3 (1) the establishment of pre-calculated benefits  
4 criterion for common defensible space mitigation  
5 projects for wildfire mitigation;

6 (2) the use of nature-based infrastructure in  
7 wildfire mitigation;

8 (3) considerations for vegetation management  
9 for wildfire mitigation;

10 (4) reducing the negative effects of wildfire  
11 smoke on public health; and

12 (5) lessening the impact of wildfires on water  
13 infrastructure.

14 (b) UPDATED CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year after  
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
16 issue such guidance as is necessary to—

17 (1) update criteria for evaluating the cost-effec-  
18 tiveness of mitigation projects under sections 203  
19 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
20 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133;  
21 5170c) based on the results of the review conducted  
22 under subsection (a); and

23 (2) prioritize projects under such sections based  
24 on the criteria updated under paragraph (1).

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