

SENATE, No. 992

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

"Disaster Victims Protection Act"; requires Governor to allocate federal and State disaster aid to municipalities in proportion to amount of catastrophic physical damage sustained within each municipality.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the allocation of federal and State disaster
2 funds and supplementing chapter 9 of Appendix A.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Disaster
8 Victims Protection Act."

9

10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

11 a. Beginning on October 28, 2012, and continuing through
12 October 30, 2012, Hurricane Sandy produced unprecedented severe
13 weather conditions and devastated the State of New Jersey and its
14 residents with high winds and torrential rains, enormous storm
15 surges and floods.

16 b. As a result of the catastrophic damage to the State caused by
17 Hurricane Sandy, New Jersey received billions of dollars from
18 Congress in the form of Community Development Block Grant-
19 Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to support the State's
20 recovery and rebuilding efforts. The United States Department of
21 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designated the nine most-
22 impacted counties, which include Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May,
23 Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union counties,
24 to which the CDBG-DR funds were to be allocated.

25 c. Although the entire State suffered as a result of this natural
26 disaster, some municipalities within the nine most-impacted
27 counties were much more severely damaged than other
28 municipalities within the nine designated counties.

29 d. While worthwhile housing and development projects within
30 the nine most-impacted counties have been funded with CDBG-DR
31 funds, some of the municipalities that were the hardest hit and most
32 financially strained within those nine counties remain in need of
33 substantial aid and development due to funds not being allocated in
34 proportion to the amount of damage suffered by the municipality,
35 but by the designation of the county itself. This has caused some
36 municipalities to receive disaster relief aid substantially
37 disproportionate to the amount of damage suffered, particularly
38 when compared to municipalities that suffered more damage within
39 other designated counties.

40 e. In order to utilize limited federal and State disaster relief
41 funds in the most appropriate manner, and to provide assistance to
42 those most vulnerable and most in need in our State without delay,
43 when developing a State action plan for the allocation and
44 disbursement of federal CDBG-DR funds and State resources, it is
45 only fair and just that municipal funding priority consideration be
46 given to municipalities for its rebuilding and development efforts in
47 direct proportion to the amount of physical damage sustained within
48 each municipality.

