

HM 1521

2021

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Federal Emergency Management Agency,
3 urging the agency to amend the proposed rule entitled
4 "Cost of Assistance Estimates in the Disaster
5 Declaration Process for the Public Assistance Program"
6 to provide for a gradual increase in the per capita
7 indicator.

8
9 WHEREAS, since 1986, the Federal Emergency Management
10 Agency (FEMA) has used a \$1 per capita indicator to evaluate the
11 estimated cost of federal and nonfederal public assistance
12 against the statewide population to determine the need for
13 federal disaster assistance, and

14 WHEREAS, at the time, FEMA believed that the federal
15 disaster public assistance threshold was a level of damage from
16 which even the least populated state could recover using state
17 resources, and

18 WHEREAS, in December 2020, FEMA published a proposed rule
19 entitled "Cost of Assistance Estimates in the Disaster
20 Declaration Process for the Public Assistance Program," and

21 WHEREAS, under the proposed rule, Florida's proposed per
22 capita would increase to \$1.98, and

23 WHEREAS, using the new formula in the proposed rule,
24 Florida would be required to sustain damages exceeding
25 \$42,172,664 to be eligible for a federal disaster declaration,

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26 | which is an increase of 49.5 percent from the state's current
 27 | baseline, and

28 | WHEREAS, the state agrees with FEMA that the changes would
 29 | provide a better distribution of responsibilities between the
 30 | states and the federal government and would incentivize states
 31 | to invest more in disaster response, recovery, and mitigation
 32 | capabilities, and

33 | WHEREAS, the state is facing budget challenges due to the
 34 | pandemic and impending hurricane season, and

35 | WHEREAS, the significant increase to the state's per capita
 36 | indicator under the proposed rule would make the state
 37 | vulnerable to significant hardship, NOW, THEREFORE,

38 |
 39 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

40 |
 41 | That the Federal Emergency Management Agency is urged to
 42 | amend the proposed rule entitled "Cost of Assistance Estimates
 43 | in the Disaster Declaration Process for the Public Assistance
 44 | Program" to provide for a gradual increase in the per capita
 45 | indicator.

46 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 47 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
 48 | Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to the
 49 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
 50 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of

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51 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.