

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3157

To provide for the designation of a Department of Agriculture disaster liaison to assist State and local employees of the Department in coordination with other disaster agencies in response to a federally declared disaster area as a result of a disaster.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2003

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. CARDOZA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide for the designation of a Department of Agriculture disaster liaison to assist State and local employees of the Department in coordination with other disaster agencies in response to a federally declared disaster area as a result of a disaster.

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. LIAISON FOR DISASTER EMERGENCIES.**

4 (a) DESIGNATION OF DISASTER LIAISON.—The Sec-
5 retary of Agriculture shall designate employees of the De-
6 partment of Agriculture to serve as disaster liaisons to
7 State and local Department Service Centers in a federally

1 declared disaster area to coordinate Department programs
2 with the appropriate disaster agencies designated under
3 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
4 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

5 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Disaster liaisons shall be se-
6 lected from among Department employees who have expe-
7 rience providing emergency disaster relief in federally de-
8 clared disaster areas.

9 (c) DUTIES.—A disaster liaison shall—

10 (1) serve as a liaison to State and Federal
11 Emergency Services;

12 (2) be deployed to a federally declared disaster
13 area to coordinate Department interagency pro-
14 grams in assistance to agricultural producers in the
15 declared disaster area;

16 (3) facilitate the claims and applications of ag-
17 ricultural producers who are victims of the disaster
18 that are forwarded to the Department by the appro-
19 priate State Department of Agriculture agency di-
20 rector; and

21 (4) coordinate with the Director of the State of-
22 fice of the appropriate Department agency to assist
23 with the application for and distribution of economic
24 assistance.

1 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “federally
2 declared disaster area” means—

3 (1) an area covered by a Presidential declara-
4 tion of major disaster issued under section 301 of
5 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
6 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

7 (2) determined to be a disaster area by the Sec-
8 retary under subpart A of part 1945 of title 7, Code
9 of Federal Regulations.

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