

Public Law 102-485
102d Congress

An Act

To facilitate recovery from recent disasters by providing greater flexibility for depository institutions and their regulators, and for other purposes.

Oct. 23, 1992
[H.R. 6050]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Depository
Institutions
Disaster
Relief Act
of 1992.
12 USC 1811
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Depository Institutions Disaster Relief Act of 1992".

SEC. 2. APPRAISAL REQUIREMENTS.

Title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3331 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1123. EMERGENCY EXCEPTIONS FOR DISASTER AREAS.

12 USC 3352.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Federal financial institutions regulatory agency may, by regulation or order, make exceptions to this title, and to standards prescribed pursuant to this title, for transactions involving institutions for which the agency is the primary Federal regulator with respect to real property located within a disaster area if the agency—

"(1) makes the exception not later than 30 months after the date on which the President determines, pursuant to section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, that a major disaster exists in the area; and

"(2) determines that the exception—

"(A) would facilitate recovery from the major disaster; and

"(B) is consistent with safety and soundness.

"(b) **3-YEAR LIMIT ON EXCEPTIONS.**—Any exception made under this section shall expire not later than 3 years after the date of the determination referred to in subsection (a)(1).

"(c) **PUBLICATION REQUIRED.**—Any Federal financial institutions regulatory agency shall publish in the Federal Register a statement that—

Federal
Register,
publication.

"(1) describes any exception made under this section; and

"(2) explains how the exception—

"(A) would facilitate recovery from the major disaster; and

"(B) is consistent with safety and soundness.

"(d) **DISASTER AREA DEFINED.**—For purposes of this section, the term 'disaster area' means an area in which the President, pursuant to section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, has determined that a major disaster exists."

12 USC 4008
note.

SEC. 3. TRUTH IN LENDING ACT; EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT.

(a) **TRUTH IN LENDING ACT.**—During the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may make exceptions to the Truth in Lending Act for transactions within an area in which the President, pursuant to section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, has determined that a major disaster exists, if the Board determines that the exception can reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public that outweigh possible adverse effects.

(b) **EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT.**—During the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may make exceptions to the Expedited Funds Availability Act for depository institution offices located within an area referred to in subsection (a) of this section if the Board determines that the exception can reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public that outweigh possible adverse effects.

(c) **TIME LIMIT ON EXCEPTIONS.**—Any exception made under this section shall expire not later than the earlier of—

- (1) 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or
- (2) 1 year after the date of the Presidential determination referred to in subsection (a).

(d) **PUBLICATION REQUIRED.**—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall publish in the Federal Register a statement that—

- (1) describes any exception made under this section; and
- (2) explains how the exception can reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public that outweigh possible adverse effects.

Federal
Register,
publication.

12 USC 1831o
note.

SEC. 4. DEPOSIT OF INSURANCE PROCEEDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The appropriate Federal banking agency may, by order, permit an insured depository institution, during the 18-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, to subtract from the institution's total assets, in calculating compliance with the leverage limit prescribed under section 38 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, an amount not exceeding the qualifying amount attributable to insurance proceeds, if the agency determines that—

(1) the institution—

(A) had its principal place of business within an area in which the President, pursuant to section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, has determined that a major disaster exists, on the day before the date of that determination;

(B) derives more than 60 percent of its total deposits from persons who normally reside within, or whose principal place of business is normally within, areas of intense devastation caused by the major disaster (such as that portion of Dade County, Florida, south of Kendall Drive and east of Everglades National Park, as damaged by Hurricane Andrew);

(C) was adequately capitalized (as defined in section 38 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) before the major disaster; and

(D) has an acceptable plan for managing the increase in its total assets and total deposits; and
 (2) the subtraction is consistent with the purpose of section 38 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL BANKING AGENCY.—The term “appropriate Federal banking agency” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(2) INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term “insured depository institution” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(3) LEVERAGE LIMIT.—The term “leverage limit” has the same meaning as in section 38 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(4) QUALIFYING AMOUNT ATTRIBUTABLE TO INSURANCE PROCEEDS.—The term “qualifying amount attributable to insurance proceeds” means the amount (if any) by which the institution’s total assets exceed the institution’s average total assets during the calendar quarter ending before the date of the Presidential determination referred to in subsection (a)(1)(A), because of the deposit of insurance payments or governmental assistance made with respect to damage caused by, or other costs resulting from, the major disaster.

SEC. 5. BANKING AGENCY PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

12 USC 1828
note.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a qualifying regulatory agency may take any of the following actions with respect to depository institutions or other regulated entities whose principal place of business is within, or with respect to transactions or activities within, an area in which the President, pursuant to section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, has determined that a major disaster exists, if the agency determines that the action would facilitate recovery from the major disaster:

(1) PROCEDURE.—Exercising the agency’s authority under provisions of law other than this section without complying with—

(A) any requirement of section 553 of title 5, United States Code; or

(B) any provision of law that requires notice or opportunity for hearing or sets maximum or minimum time limits with respect to agency action.

(2) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Making exceptions, with respect to institutions or other entities for which the agency is the primary Federal regulator, to—

(A) any publication requirement with respect to establishing branches or other deposit-taking facilities; or

(B) any similar publication requirement.

(b) PUBLICATION REQUIRED.—A qualifying regulatory agency shall publish in the Federal Register a statement that—

(1) describes any action taken under this section; and

(2) explains the need for the action.

(c) QUALIFYING REGULATORY AGENCY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term “qualifying regulatory agency” means—

(1) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

(2) the Comptroller of the Currency;

(3) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision;

Federal
Register,
publication.

- (4) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
- (5) the Financial Institutions Examination Council;
- (6) the National Credit Union Administration; and
- (7) with respect to chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF BANKS.

(a) **NATIONAL BANKS.**—Section 5136 of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 24) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“Eleventh. To make investments designed primarily to promote the public welfare, including the welfare of low- and moderate-income communities or families (such as by providing housing, services, or jobs). A national banking association may make such investments directly or by purchasing interests in an entity primarily engaged in making such investments. An association shall not make any such investment if the investment would expose the association to unlimited liability. The Comptroller of the Currency shall limit an association’s investments in any 1 project and an association’s aggregate investments under this paragraph. An association’s aggregate investments under this paragraph shall not exceed an amount equal to the sum of 5 percent of the association’s capital stock actually paid in and unimpaired and 5 percent of the association’s unimpaired surplus fund, unless the Comptroller determines by order that the higher amount will pose no significant risk to the affected deposit insurance fund, and the association is adequately capitalized. In no case shall an association’s aggregate investments under this paragraph exceed an amount equal to the sum of 10 percent of the association’s capital stock actually paid in and unimpaired and 10 percent of the association’s unimpaired surplus fund.”

(b) **STATE MEMBER BANKS.**—Section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 321–338) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

12 USC 338a.

“State member banks may make investments designed primarily to promote the public welfare, including the welfare of low- and moderate-income communities or families (such as by providing housing, services, or jobs), to the extent permissible under State law, and subject to such restrictions and requirements as the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may prescribe by regulation or order. A bank shall not make any such investment if the investment would expose the bank to unlimited liability. The Board shall limit a bank’s investments in any 1 project and bank’s aggregate investments under this paragraph. A bank’s aggregate investments under this paragraph shall not exceed an amount equal to the sum of 5 percent of the bank’s capital stock actually paid in and unimpaired and 5 percent of the bank’s unimpaired surplus fund, unless the Board determines by order that the higher amount will pose no significant risk to the affected deposit insurance fund, and the bank is adequately capitalized. In no case shall a bank’s aggregate investments under this paragraph exceed an amount equal to the sum of 10 percent of the bank’s capital stock actually paid in and unimpaired and 10 percent of the bank’s unimpaired surplus fund.”

SEC. 7. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration should encourage depository institutions in areas affected by such major disasters as Hurricane Andrew, Hurricane Iniki, and the Los Angeles civil unrest to meet the financial services needs of their communities.

SEC. 8. OTHER AUTHORITY NOT AFFECTED.12 USC 1811
note.

Nothing in this Act limits the authority of any department or agency under any other provision of law.

Approved October 23, 1992.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 6050:**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD**, Vol. 138 (1992):

Oct. 3, considered and passed House.

Oct. 8, considered and passed Senate.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 28 (1992):

Oct. 23, Presidential statement.