

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4636

To revise the treatment of urbanized areas experiencing population changes following a major disaster.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. Kaine) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To revise the treatment of urbanized areas experiencing population changes following a major 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Giving Relief to Amer-
5 ican Communities in Emergencies Act” or the “GRACE
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. URBANIZED AREAS.**

8 (a) EXTENSION OF TREATMENT OF URBANIZED
9 AREAS.—Section 21101 of division B of the Bipartisan
10 Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123; 132 Stat. 103)

1 is amended by striking “and 2020” and inserting “2020,
2 2021, and 2022”.

3 (b) CENSUS DISCRETION.—Section 5324 of title 49,
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(f) CENSUS DISCRETION.—

7 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

8 “(A) the term ‘disaster-related population
9 decrease’, with respect to an urbanized area,
10 means that—

11 “(i) the population of the urbanized
12 area decreases to be less than 50,000 indi-
13 viduals, as determined in a decennial cen-
14 sus after the decennial census in which the
15 area was designated as an urbanized area;
16 and

17 “(ii) the decrease described in clause
18 (i) is a result of a major disaster declared
19 by the President under section 401 of the
20 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
21 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
22 5170); and

23 “(B) the term ‘urbanized area’ means an
24 area designated in a decennial census as an ur-
25 banized area by the Secretary of Commerce.

1 “(2) ELECTION.—Upon request by the Gov-
2 ernor of a State in which an urbanized area that ex-
3 periences a disaster-related population decrease is lo-
4 cated, the Secretary of Transportation may elect for
5 the purposes of this chapter, including for purposes
6 of making apportionments under this chapter, to—
7 “(A) use the population of the urbanized
8 area, as determined in the decennial census be-
9 fore the most recent decennial census; and
10 “(B) continue to treat the area as an ur-
11 banized area.”.

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