

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4836

To allow COVID–19 relief funds to be used for disaster assistance, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to
the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To allow COVID–19 relief funds to be used for disaster
assistance, and for other purposes.

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 “Prioritizing Disaster
5 Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. USE OF COVID–19 RELIEF FUNDS FOR DISASTER RE-**
7 **LIEF.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) COVID–19 RELIEF FUNDS.—The term
10 “COVID–19 relief funds” means amounts appro-

1 priated under the following Acts related to COVID-
2 19 relief:

3 (A) The CARES Act (Public Law 116-
4 136; 134 Stat. 281).

5 (B) The American Rescue Plan Act of
6 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4).

7 (C) The Coronavirus Preparedness and Re-
8 sponse Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020
9 (Public Law 116-23; 134 Stat. 146).

10 (D) The Emergency Aid for Returning
11 Americans Affected by Coronavirus Act (Public
12 Law 116-148; 134 Stat. 661).

13 (E) The Families First Coronavirus Re-
14 sponse Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat.
15 178).

16 (F) The Paycheck Protection Program and
17 Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law
18 116-139; 134 Stat. 620).

19 (G) The Coronavirus Response and Relief
20 Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law
21 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182).

22 (H) The Continuing Appropriations Act,
23 2021 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law
24 116-159; 134 Stat. 709).

1 (I) The Extending Government Funding
2 and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (Pub-
3 lic Law 117–43; 134 Stat. 344).

4 (2) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—
5 The terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal organiza-
6 tion” have the meanings given those terms in section
7 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education
8 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

9 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means each
10 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
11 and any territory or possession of the United States.

12 (b) USE OF FUNDS FOR DISASTER RELIEF.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any limita-
14 tion on the use of COVID–19 relief funds under any
15 other provision of law, a State, unit of local govern-
16 ment, Indian Tribe, or Tribal organization may use
17 COVID–19 relief funds for expenses related to as-
18 sisting communities, individuals, and businesses af-
19 fected by and located within the designated area of
20 a major disaster or emergency declared under sec-
21 tion 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Staf-
22 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
23 (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191) before, on, or after the date
24 of enactment of this Act.

1 (2) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—COVID–19
2 relief funds used in accordance with paragraph (1)
3 shall supplement and not supplant any other Federal
4 disaster assistance made available to a community,
5 individual, or business.

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