



House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Rep. Bill Shuster, Chairman

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Reauthorization Act of 2017 - Division F

The FEMA Reauthorization Act of 2017 is the first Congressional reauthorization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – the agency responsible for coordinating the federal government’s critical role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

Critical to ensuring America is better prepared to address 21st century disaster preparedness and response challenges, the bill provides essential direction in identifying and reducing the growing federal costs of disasters and supports the Nation’s emergency response personnel.

Background:

- In 1979, then President Jimmy Carter issued an Executive Order that consolidated fragmented federal emergency and disaster activities and resulted in the creation of FEMA. In March 2003, in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11th, FEMA joined 22 other federal agencies, programs, and offices in becoming the Department of Homeland Security.
- Following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Katrina, in October 2006, President Bush signed into law the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, which provided the first statutory authorization of FEMA by Congress and significantly reorganized the agency and provided it substantial new authority to coordinate federal disaster response on behalf of the president.

This legislation:

- Strengthens accountability and Congressional oversight by reauthorizing FEMA management and administration through FY2020, consistent with current funding levels. Specifically, it authorizes for FY2018 - \$1.05 billion; for FY2019 - \$1.07 billion; and for FY2020 - \$1.08 billion.
- Directs the National Advisory Council to complete a comprehensive study of the trends related to disaster assistance, costs and losses and provide recommendations to reduce the costs related to these events.
- Supports emergency response personnel by reauthorizing the Center for Domestic Preparedness and the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium through FY2020 consistent with current funding levels.
- Clarifies that the FEMA Administrator is responsible for the Nation’s efforts to reduce the loss of life and property from an earthquake, tsunami or combined event.