

Info Alert

National Conference of State Legislatures Office of State-Federal Relations

Jan. 29, 2013

Congress Passes Hurricane Sandy Relief Bill

On Jan. 28, the Senate passed the [Disaster Relief Appropriations Act](#) (H.R. 152), which provides \$50.6 billion to fund short and long-term relief and recovery efforts for the areas adversely affected by Hurricane Sandy as well as funding for future disaster assistance. The bill includes billions of dollars in transportation, infrastructure and natural resources provisions and was previously passed the House on Jan. 15. The President is expected to sign the bill into law within the week.

Specifically, the bill provides approximately:

- \$16 billion to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Fund for disaster relief , long-term recovery and infrastructure restoration
- \$10.8 billion to the Federal Transit Administration for emergency relief to the public transit systems in New York and New Jersey
- \$5.35 billion to the Army Corps of Engineers for reconstruction efforts
 - \$3.5 billion to repair projects under construction before the storm, and damaged by the storm
 - \$1 billion for flood control and coastal emergency activities
 - \$50 million for investigations in natural disaster flood and storm damage reduction
- \$2 billion to the Federal-Aid Highways Emergency Relief Program
- \$836 million to the Department of Interior for repairs to national lands
 - \$348 million to the National Park Service for repairs to national parks, lands and facilities
 - \$78 million to the Fish and Wildlife Service for repairs to fish hatcheries and wildlife refuges
 - \$3 million to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to research oil spills
- \$608 million to the Environmental Protection Agency for state and tribal assistance grants in EPA Region 2 for wastewater and drinking water treatment works and facilities
 - \$500 million in capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund
 - \$100 million in capitalization grants under the Safe Drinking Water Act
 - \$5 million to the Leaking Underground Storage Tank fund for necessary expenses as a consequence of Hurricane Sandy

- \$224 million to the Department of Agriculture
 - \$180 million to the Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - \$23 million to the Emergency Forest Restoration Program
 - \$6 million to the Department of Agriculture's Domestic Food Programs Food and Nutrition Service to replenish food bank inventories
- \$118 million to the Federal Railroad Administration to repair Amtrak infrastructure affected by the Hurricane
- \$30 million to the Federal Aviation Administration for facility and equipment maintenance

In addition to this aid package, on Jan. 4 Congress passed, and the President signed, a [\\$9.7 billion increase](#) in the borrowing power of the National Flood Insurance Program so the program could continue to process the 100,000+ Hurricane Sandy claims.

If you have any questions regarding the provisions in the Disaster Relief Act or would like further information please contact [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) [Tamra Spielvogel](#) (202-624-8690) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597).