

SUBCHAPTER III—MAJOR DISASTER AND  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

**§ 5141. Waiver of administrative conditions**

Any Federal agency charged with the administration of a Federal assistance program may, if so requested by the applicant State or local authorities, modify or waive, for a major disaster, such administrative conditions for assistance as would otherwise prevent the giving of assistance under such programs if the inability to meet such conditions is a result of the major disaster.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title III, § 301, as added Pub. L. 100-707, title I, § 105(a)(2), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4691.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5141, Pub. L. 93-288, title III, § 301, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 146, set out procedure for determination of existence of emergency or major disaster, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-707, § 105(a)(2).

**§ 5142. Repealed. Pub. L. 100-707, title I, § 105(a)(2), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4691**

Section, Pub. L. 93-288, title III, § 302, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 146, related to Federal assistance and its coordination with State and local disaster assistance.

**§ 5143. Coordinating officers**

**(a) Appointment of Federal coordinating officer**

Immediately upon his declaration of a major disaster or emergency, the President shall appoint a Federal coordinating officer to operate in the affected area.

**(b) Functions of Federal coordinating officer**

In order to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, the Federal coordinating officer, within the affected area, shall—

- (1) make an initial appraisal of the types of relief most urgently needed;
- (2) establish such field offices as he deems necessary and as are authorized by the President;
- (3) coordinate the administration of relief, including activities of the State and local governments, the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and other relief or disaster assistance organizations, which agree to operate under his advice or direction, except that nothing contained in this chapter shall limit or in any way affect the responsibilities of the American National Red Cross under chapter 3001 of title 36; and
- (4) take such other action, consistent with authority delegated to him by the President, and consistent with the provisions of this chapter, as he may deem necessary to assist local citizens and public officials in promptly obtaining assistance to which they are entitled.

**(c) State coordinating officer**

When the President determines assistance under this chapter is necessary, he shall request that the Governor of the affected State designate a State coordinating officer for the purpose of coordinating State and local disaster assistance efforts with those of the Federal Government.

**(d) Single Federal coordinating officer for multi-state area**

Where the area affected by a major disaster or emergency includes parts of more than 1 State, the President, at the discretion of the President, may appoint a single Federal coordinating officer for the entire affected area, and may appoint such deputy Federal coordinating officers to assist the Federal coordinating officer as the President determines appropriate.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title III, § 302, formerly § 303, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 147; renumbered § 302 and amended Pub. L. 100-707, title I, § 105(b), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4691; Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, § 687, Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1448.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (b) and (c), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143, as amended. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (b)(3), “chapter 3001 of title 36” substituted for “the Act of January 5, 1905, as amended (33 Stat. 599)” on authority of Pub. L. 105-225, § 5(b), Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1499, the first section of which enacted Title 36, Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 302 of Pub. L. 93-288 was classified to section 5142 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-707.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-295 added subsec. (d).  
1988—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-707 inserted “or emergency” after “major disaster”.

**§ 5144. Emergency support and response teams**

**(a) Emergency support teams**

The President shall form emergency support teams of Federal personnel to be deployed in an area affected by a major disaster or emergency. Such emergency support teams shall assist the Federal coordinating officer in carrying out his responsibilities pursuant to this chapter. Upon request of the President, the head of any Federal agency is directed to detail to temporary duty with the emergency support teams on either a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, as is determined necessary by the President, such personnel within the administrative jurisdiction of the head of the Federal agency as the President may need or believe to be useful for carrying out the functions of the emergency support teams, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status.

**(b) Emergency response teams**

**(1) Establishment**

In carrying out subsection (a), the President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall establish—

- (A) at a minimum 3 national response teams; and
- (B) sufficient regional response teams, including Regional Office strike teams under section 317 of title 6; and