

priate Secretary, (1) of more than \$1,000 for sales under one million board feet, (2) of more than \$1 per thousand board feet for sales of one to three million board feet, or (3) of more than \$3,000 for sales over three million board feet, such increased construction cost shall be borne by the United States.

**(b) Cancellation of authority**

If the appropriate Secretary determines that damages are so great that restoration, reconstruction, or construction is not practical under the cost-sharing arrangement authorized by subsection (a) of this section, he may allow cancellation of a contract entered into by his Department notwithstanding contrary provisions therein.

**(c) Public notice of sale**

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to reduce to seven days the minimum period of advance public notice required by section 476<sup>1</sup> of title 16, in connection with the sale of timber from national forests, whenever the Secretary determines that (1) the sale of such timber will assist in the construction of any area of a State damaged by a major disaster, (2) the sale of such timber will assist in sustaining the economy of such area, or (3) the sale of such timber is necessary to salvage the value of timber damaged in such major disaster or to protect undamaged timber.

**(d) State grants for removal of damaged timber; reimbursement of expenses limited to salvage value of removed timber**

The President, when he determines it to be in the public interest, is authorized to make grants to any State or local government for the purpose of removing from privately owned lands timber damaged as a result of a major disaster, and such State or local government is authorized upon application, to make payments out of such grants to any person for reimbursement of expenses actually incurred by such person in the removal of damaged timber, not to exceed the amount that such expenses exceed the salvage value of such timber.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title IV, § 421, formerly § 418, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 158; renumbered § 421, Pub. L. 100-707, title I, § 106(j), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4705.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 476 of title 16, referred to in subsec. (c), was repealed by Pub. L. 94-588, § 13, Oct. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 2958.

**§ 5189. Simplified procedure**

**(a) In general**

If the Federal estimate of the cost of—

(1) repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing under section 5172 of this title any damaged or destroyed public facility or private nonprofit facility,

(2) emergency assistance under section 5170b or 5192 of this title, or

(3) debris removed under section 5173 of this title,

is less than \$35,000 (or, if the Administrator has established a threshold under subsection (b), the amount established under subsection (b)), the President (on application of the State or local government or the owner or operator of the private nonprofit facility) may make the contribution to such State or local government or owner or operator under section 5170b, 5172, 5173, or 5192 of this title, as the case may be, on the basis of such Federal estimate. Such \$35,000 amount or, if applicable, the amount established under subsection (b), shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

**(b) Threshold**

**(1) Report**

Not later than 1 year after January 29, 2013, the President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”), shall—

(A) complete an analysis to determine whether an increase in the threshold for eligibility under subsection (a) is appropriate, which shall include consideration of cost-effectiveness, speed of recovery, capacity of grantees, past performance, and accountability measures; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A).

**(2) Amount**

After the Administrator submits the report required under paragraph (1), the President shall direct the Administrator to—

(A) immediately establish a threshold for eligibility under this section in an appropriate amount, without regard to chapter 5 of title 5; and

(B) adjust the threshold annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

**(3) Review**

Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Administrator establishes a threshold under paragraph (2), and every 3 years thereafter, the President, acting through the Administrator, shall review the threshold for eligibility under this section.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title IV, § 422, as added Pub. L. 100-707, title I, § 106(k), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4705; amended Pub. L. 113-2, div. B, § 1107, Jan. 29, 2013, 127 Stat. 46.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5189, Pub. L. 93-288, title IV, § 419, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 159, related to alternate contributions, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-707, § 106(k).

AMENDMENTS

2013—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 113-2, § 1107(3), which directed insertion of “or, if applicable, the amount established under subsection (b),” after “\$35,000 amount” the second place appearing, was executed by making the in-

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

sertion after “\$35,000 amount” the only place that phrase appeared, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 113-2, §1107(1), (2), designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and inserted “(or, if the Administrator has established a threshold under subsection (b), the amount established under subsection (b))” after “less than \$35,000” in concluding provisions.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 113-2, §1107(4), added subsec. (b).

### § 5189a. Appeals of assistance decisions

#### (a) Right of appeal

Any decision regarding eligibility for, from, or amount of assistance under this subchapter may be appealed within 60 days after the date on which the applicant for such assistance is notified of the award or denial of award of such assistance.

#### (b) Period for decision

A decision regarding an appeal under subsection (a) shall be rendered within 90 days after the date on which the Federal official designated to administer such appeals receives notice of such appeal.

#### (c) Rules

The President shall issue rules which provide for the fair and impartial consideration of appeals under this section.

#### (d) Right of arbitration

##### (1) In general

Notwithstanding this section, an applicant for assistance under this subchapter may request arbitration to dispute the eligibility for assistance or repayment of assistance provided for a dispute of more than \$500,000 for any disaster that occurred after January 1, 2016. Such arbitration shall be conducted by the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals and the decision of such Board shall be binding.

##### (2) Review

The Civilian Board of Contract Appeals shall consider from the applicant all original and additional documentation, testimony, or other such evidence supporting the applicant’s position at any time during arbitration.

##### (3) Rural areas

For an applicant for assistance in a rural area under this subchapter, the assistance amount eligible for arbitration pursuant to this subsection shall be \$100,000.

##### (4) Rural area defined

For the purposes of this subsection, the term “rural area” means an area with a population of less than 200,000 outside an urbanized area.

##### (5) Eligibility

To participate in arbitration under this subsection, an applicant—

(A) shall submit the dispute to the arbitration process established under the authority granted under section 601 of Public Law 111-5; and

(B) may submit a request for arbitration after the completion of the first appeal under subsection (a) at any time before the Administrator of the Federal Emergency

Management Agency has issued a final agency determination or 180 days after the Administrator’s receipt of the appeal if the Administrator has not provided the applicant with a final determination on the appeal. The applicant’s request shall contain documentation from the administrative record for the first appeal and may contain additional documentation supporting the applicant’s position.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title IV, §423, as added Pub. L. 100-707, title I, §106(l), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4705; amended Pub. L. 115-254, div. D, §1219, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3452.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 601 of Public Law 111-5, referred to in subsec. (d)(5)(A), is Pub. L. 111-5, div. A, title VI, §601, Feb. 17, 2009, 123 Stat. 164, which is not classified to the Code.

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-254 added subsec. (d).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-254 applicable to each major disaster and emergency declared by the President on or after Aug. 1, 2017, and authorities provided under div. D of Pub. L. 115-254 applicable to each major disaster and emergency declared by the President on or after Jan. 1, 2016, except as otherwise provided, see section 1202 of Pub. L. 115-254, set out as a note under section 5121 of this title.

#### DISPUTE RESOLUTION PILOT PROGRAM

Pub. L. 113-2, div. B, §1105, Jan. 29, 2013, 127 Stat. 43, as amended by Pub. L. 114-301, §2(c), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1514, provided that:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ASSISTANCE.—The term ‘eligible assistance’ means assistance—

“(A) under section 403, 406, or 407 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5172, 5173);

“(B) for which the legitimate amount in dispute is not less than \$1,000,000, which sum the Administrator shall adjust annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor;

“(C) for which the applicant has a non-Federal share; and

“(D) for which the applicant has received a decision on a first appeal.

“(b) PROCEDURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section [Jan. 29, 2013], and in order to facilitate an efficient recovery from major disasters, the Administrator shall establish procedures under which an applicant may request the use of alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration by an independent review panel, to resolve disputes relating to eligible assistance.

“(2) BINDING EFFECT.—A decision by an independent review panel under this section shall be binding upon the parties to the dispute.

“(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—The procedures established under this section shall—

“(A) allow a party of a dispute relating to eligible assistance to request an independent review panel for the review;

“(B) require a party requesting an independent review panel as described in subparagraph (A) to agree to forgo rights to any further appeal of the dispute relating to any eligible assistance;