

ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act which comprises this chapter.

**§ 5204b. Technical assistance for insular areas**

(a) Upon the declaration by the President of a disaster in an insular area, the President, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall assess, in cooperation with the Secretary and chief executive of such insular area, the capability of the insular government to respond to the disaster, including the capability to assess damage; coordinate activities with Federal agencies, particularly the Federal Emergency Management Agency; develop recovery plans, including recommendations for enhancing the survivability of essential infrastructure; negotiate and manage reconstruction contracts; and prevent the misuse of funds. If the President finds that the insular government lacks any of these or other capabilities essential to the recovery effort, then the President shall provide technical assistance to the insular area which the President deems necessary for the recovery effort.

(b) One year following the declaration by the President of a disaster in an insular area, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall submit to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Natural Resources a report on the status of the recovery effort, including an audit of Federal funds expended in the recovery effort and recommendations on how to improve public health and safety, survivability of infrastructure, recovery efforts, and effective use of funds in the event of future disasters.

(Pub. L. 102-247, title II, §203, Feb. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 37; Pub. L. 103-437, §15(p), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4594; Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, §612(c), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1410.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Omnibus Insular Areas Act of 1992, and not as part of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act which comprises this chapter.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-437 substituted “House Committee on Natural Resources” for “House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs”.

CHANGE OF NAME

“Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency” substituted for “Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency” in subsecs. (a) and (b) on authority of section 612(c) of Pub. L. 109-295, set out as a note under section 313 of Title 6, Domestic Security. Any reference to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in title VI of Pub. L. 109-295 or an amendment by title VI to be considered to refer and apply to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency until Mar. 31, 2007, see section 612(f)(2) of Pub. L. 109-295, set out as a note under section 313 of Title 6.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of all functions, personnel, assets, components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management relating thereto, to the Federal

Emergency Management Agency, see section 315(a)(1) of Title 6, Domestic Security.

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see former section 313(1) and sections 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

**§ 5204c. Hazard mitigation for insular areas**

The total of contributions under the last sentence of section 5170c of this title for the insular areas shall not exceed 10 percent of the estimated aggregate amounts of grants to be made under sections 5170b, 5172, 5173, 5174, and 5178<sup>1</sup> of this title for any disaster: *Provided*, That the President shall require a 50 percent local match for assistance in excess of 10 percent of the estimated aggregate amount of grants to be made under section 5172 of this title for any disaster.

(Pub. L. 102-247, title II, §204, Feb. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 38.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 5178 of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by Pub. L. 106-390, title II, §206(c), Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1571, effective 18 months after Oct. 30, 2000.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Omnibus Insular Areas Act of 1992, and not as part of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act which comprises this chapter.

**§ 5205. Disaster grant closeout procedures**

**(a) Statute of limitations**

**(1) In general**

Notwithstanding section 3716(e) of title 31 and except as provided in paragraph (2), no administrative action to recover any payment made to a State or local government for disaster or emergency assistance under this chapter shall be initiated in any forum after the date that is 3 years after the date of transmission of the final expenditure report for project completion as certified by the grantee.

**(2) Fraud exception**

The limitation under paragraph (1) shall apply unless there is evidence of civil or criminal fraud.

**(b) Rebuttal of presumption of record maintenance**

**(1) In general**

In any dispute arising under this section after the date that is 3 years after the date of transmission of the final expenditure report for project completion as certified by the grantee, there shall be a presumption that accounting records were maintained that adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for financially assisted activities.

**(2) Affirmative evidence**

The presumption described in paragraph (1) may be rebutted only on production of affirm-

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

ative evidence that the State or local government did not maintain documentation described in that paragraph.

**(3) Inability to produce documentation**

The inability of the Federal, State, or local government to produce source documentation supporting expenditure reports later than 3 years after the date of transmission of the final expenditure report for project completion as certified by the grantee shall not constitute evidence to rebut the presumption described in paragraph (1).

**(4) Right of access**

The period during which the Federal, State, or local government has the right to access source documentation shall not be limited to the required 3-year retention period referred to in paragraph (3), but shall last as long as the records are maintained.

**(c) Binding nature of grant requirements**

A State or local government shall not be liable for reimbursement or any other penalty for any payment made under this chapter if—

- (1) the payment was authorized by an approved agreement specifying the costs;
- (2) the costs were reasonable; and
- (3) the purpose of the grant was accomplished.

**(d) Facilitating closeout**

**(1) Incentives**

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may develop incentives and penalties that encourage State, local, or Indian tribal governments to close out expenditures and activities on a timely basis related to disaster or emergency assistance.

**(2) Agency requirements**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency shall, consistent with applicable regulations and required procedures, meet its responsibilities to improve closeout practices and reduce the time to close disaster program awards.

(Pub. L. 93-288, title VII, §705, as added Pub. L. 106-390, title III, §304, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1573; amended Pub. L. 115-254, div. D, §§1216(c)(1), 1221(a), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3451, 3453.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subssecs. (a)(1) and (c), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 115-254, §1216(c)(1)(A), substituted “Notwithstanding section 3716(e) of title 31 and except” for “Except” and “report for project completion as certified by the grantee” for “report for the disaster or emergency”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 115-254, §1216(c)(1)(B)(i), substituted “report for project completion as certified by the grantee” for “report for the disaster or emergency”.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 115-254, §1216(c)(1)(B)(ii), inserted “for project completion as certified by the grantee” after “final expenditure report”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-254, §1221(a), 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.

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 115-254, div. D, §1221(b), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3454, provided that: “The Administrator [of the Federal Emergency Management Agency] shall issue regulations to implement the amendment made by this section [amending this section].”

**§ 5205a. Certain recoupment prohibited**

**(a) In general**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Agency shall deem any covered disaster assistance to have been properly procured, provided, and utilized, and shall restore any funding of covered disaster assistance previously provided but subsequently withdrawn or deobligated.

**(b) Covered disaster assistance defined**

In this section, the term “covered disaster assistance” means assistance—

- (1) provided to a local government pursuant to section 5170b, 5172, or 5173 of this title; and
- (2) with respect to which the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security has determined, after an audit, that—

- (A) the Agency deployed to the local government a Technical Assistance Contractor to review field operations, provide eligibility advice, and assist with day-to-day decisions;
- (B) the Technical Assistance Contractor provided inaccurate information to the local government; and
- (C) the local government relied on the inaccurate information to determine that relevant contracts were eligible, reasonable, and reimbursable.

**(c) Effective date**

This section shall be effective on October 5, 2018.

(Pub. L. 115-254, div. D, §1237, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3464.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 and as part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, and not as part of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act which comprises this chapter.

DEFINITIONS

For definition of “Agency” as used in this section, see section 1203 of Pub. L. 115-254, set out as a note under section 5122 of this title.

**§ 5206. Buy American**

**(a) Compliance with chapter 83 of title 41**

No funds authorized to be appropriated under this Act or any amendment made by this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity,