

protect property and public health and safety, performed pursuant to agencies' statutory authorities, and sections 402, 403, 502, and 503 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the "Stafford Act") (42 U.S.C. 5170a, 5170b, 5192, and 5193), or for temporary housing assistance programs and individual and family grants performed pursuant to section 408 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5174). This order shall, however, apply to other provisions of the Stafford Act after a Presidentially declared major disaster or emergency when assistance actions involve new construction or alterations to an existing building.

(e) This order applies only to buildings within the United States and its territories and possessions.

BARACK OBAMA.

#### § 7704a. Report on seismic safety property standards

##### (a) Authority

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall assess the risk of earthquake-related damage to properties assisted under programs administered by the Secretary and shall develop seismic safety standards for such properties. This section may not be construed to prohibit the Secretary from deferring to local building codes that meet the requirements of the seismic safety standards developed under this section.

##### (b) Standards

The standards shall be designed to reduce the risk of loss of life to building occupants to the maximum extent feasible and to reduce the risk of shake-related property damage to the maximum extent practicable.

##### (c) Consultation

In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and may utilize the resources under the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (established under the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 [42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.]) and any other resources as may be required to carry out the activities under this section.

(Pub. L. 101-625, title IX, §947, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4416; Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, §612(c), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1410.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 95-124, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1098, as amended, which is classified generally to this chapter (§7701 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7701 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Subsec. (d) of this section, which required the Secretary to submit a report to Congress not less than biennially on the findings of the risk assessment study conducted under this section and the activities undertaken, and the expenditures made, by the Secretary to carry out this section and Executive Order No. 12699, terminated, effective May 15, 2000, pursuant to section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance. See, also, the 4th item on page 104 of House Document No. 103-7.

Section was enacted as part of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, and not as part of the

Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 which comprises this chapter.

#### CHANGE OF NAME

"Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency" substituted for "Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency" in subsec. (c) 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.

#### §§ 7705, 7705a. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-47, § 4, Oct. 1, 1997, 111 Stat. 1164

Section 7705, Pub. L. 95-124, §6, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1102; Pub. L. 96-472, title I, §102(a), Oct. 19, 1980, 94 Stat. 2259; Pub. L. 101-614, §6, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3236, related to Office of Science and Technology Policy report.

Section 7705a, Pub. L. 95-124, §7, as added Pub. L. 101-614, §7(2), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3236, related to establishment of a National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Advisory Committee.

#### § 7705b. Seismic standards

##### (a) Assessment and recommendations

Not later than December 1, 2019, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall jointly convene a committee of experts from Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private sector entities, disaster management professional associations, engineering professional associations, and professional construction and homebuilding industry associations, to assess and recommend options for improving the built environment and critical infrastructure to reflect performance goals stated in terms of post-earthquake reoccupancy and functional recovery time.

##### (b) Report to Congress

Not later than June 30, 2020, the committee convened under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Nat-

ural Resources, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on recommended options for improving the built environment and critical infrastructure to reflect performance goals stated in terms of post-earthquake reoccupancy and functional recovery time.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 8, as added Pub. L. 101-614, § 8(a), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3237; amended Pub. L. 115-307, § 5, Dec. 11, 2018, 132 Stat. 4415.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-307 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to adoption of seismic safety standards.

#### REPORT ON VULNERABILITY OF BUILDINGS OWNED AND LEASED BY GOVERNMENT

Pub. L. 101-614, § 8(b), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3238, directed Comptroller General, not later than 18 months after Nov. 16, 1990, to report to Congress on vulnerability of buildings owned and leased by the Federal Government and on efforts of Federal agencies to improve the seismic resistance of buildings they own or lease, and for each such agency, the Comptroller General to enumerate the number of buildings owned or leased by the agency, the seriousness of the seismic risk to such buildings, and the value of the buildings at risk, as well as tabulate the expenditures each such agency had devoted to reducing earthquake damage and estimate the total expenditure necessary to address the problem adequately.

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12941

Ex. Ord. No. 12941, Dec. 1, 1994, 59 F.R. 62545, which related to seismic safety of existing federally owned or leased buildings, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 13717, § 5, Feb. 2, 2016, 81 F.R. 6409, set out as a note under section 7704 of this title.

### § 7705c. Acceptance of gifts

#### (a) Authority

In furtherance of the purposes of this chapter, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may accept and use bequests, gifts, or donations of services, money, or property, notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31.

#### (b) Criteria

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall establish by regulation criteria for determining whether to accept bequests, gifts, or donations of services, money, or property. Such criteria shall take into consideration whether the acceptance of the bequest, gift, or donation would reflect unfavorably on the Director's<sup>1</sup> ability to carry out his responsibilities in a fair and objective manner, or would compromise the integrity of, or the appearance of the integrity of, the Program or any official involved in administering the Program.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 9, as added Pub. L. 101-614, § 9, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3238; amended Pub. L. 115-307, § 8(a)(2), Dec. 11, 2018, 132 Stat. 4417.)

#### CODIFICATION

In subsec. (a), “section 1342 of title 31” was substituted for “section 3679 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 1342)” on authority of Pub. L. 97-258, § 4(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1067, the first section of which enacted Title 31, Money and Finance.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “Administrator’s”.

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-307 substituted “Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency” for “Director of the Agency” in subssecs. (a) and (b).

#### 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.

### § 7705d. Repealed. Pub. L. 106-503, title II, § 203, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2305

Section, Pub. L. 95-124, § 10, as added Pub. L. 101-614, § 10, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3238, related to non-Federal cost sharing for supplemental funds.

### § 7705e. Post-earthquake investigations program

There is established within the United States Geological Survey a post-earthquake investigations program, the purpose of which is to investigate major earthquakes, so as to learn lessons which can be applied to reduce the loss of lives and property in future earthquakes. The United States Geological Survey, in consultation with each Program agency, shall organize investigations to study the implications of the earthquake in the areas of responsibility of each Program agency. The investigations shall begin as rapidly as possible and may be conducted by grantees and contractors. The Program agencies shall ensure that the results of investigations are disseminated widely. The Director of the Survey is authorized to utilize earthquake expertise from the Agency, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, other Federal agencies, and private contractors, on a reimbursable basis, in the conduct of such earthquake investigations. At a minimum, investigations under this section shall include—

(1) analysis by the National Science Foundation and the United States Geological Survey of the causes of the earthquake and the nature of the resulting ground motion;

(2) analysis by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the behavior of structures and lifeline infrastructure, both those that were damaged and those that were undamaged; and

(3) analysis by each of the Program agencies of the effectiveness of the earthquake hazards mitigation programs and actions relating to its area of responsibility under the Program, and how those programs and actions could be strengthened.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 11, as added Pub. L. 101-614, § 11(a), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3239; amended Pub.