

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the President to designate a Veteran Advocate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. BARRETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the President to designate a Veteran Advocate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Improving Disaster  
5       Assistance for Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF VETERANS ADVOCATE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford  
3 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (15 U.S.C.  
4 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 328. DESIGNATION OF VETERAN ADVOCATE.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate in  
8 the Federal Emergency Management Agency a Veteran  
9 Advocate.

10 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Veterans Advocate  
11 shall be an advocate for the fair treatment of veterans in  
12 the provision of assistance under this Act.

13 “(c) DUTIES.—The Veterans Advocate shall—

14 “(1) participate in the disaster declaration  
15 process under section 401 and the emergency dec-  
16 laration process under section 501 to ensure that the  
17 needs of veterans are being addressed;

18 “(2) serve as the primary point of contact be-  
19 tween veterans service organizations and the Federal  
20 Emergency Management Agency;

21 “(3) identify opportunities for expanded veteran  
22 recruitment for Federal Emergency Management  
23 Agency employment, including Federal Emergency  
24 Management Agency reservist positions; and

1           “(4) conduct such other activities as the Ad-  
2           ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management  
3           Agency considers appropriate.”.

4           (b) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this  
5           section or the amendment made by this section shall be  
6           construed to authorize major disaster or emergency assist-  
7           ance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
8           Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) that  
9           is not authorized as of the date of enactment of this Act.