



HR0922

LRB098 20566 GRL 56799 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Communities across the State of Illinois were
3 devastated and 8 people were killed in tornadoes which struck
4 the State on November 17, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Hundreds of homes and businesses were damaged or
6 destroyed by the storm; and

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WHEREAS, Local governments incurred millions in
storm-related costs, including damage to public facilities,
overtime, equipment rental, emergency sheltering and
protective measures, and additional costs relating to cleanup
and recovery; and

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WHEREAS, On November 26, 2013, the President declared that
the storms were "of sufficient severity and magnitude to
warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T.
Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act"; and

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WHEREAS, The federal government subsequently disbursed
more than \$23.5 million in aid to assist individuals and
businesses hit hardest by the storms; and

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WHEREAS, On March 4, 2014, the federal government declared
that the costs incurred by first responders and other State and

1 local government agencies were not sufficient to warrant
2 federal help under the Public Assistance section of the
3 Stafford Act; and

4 WHEREAS, The formula for determining eligibility under the
5 Stafford Act is based on the population of a state, thereby
6 setting Illinois' threshold much higher than the threshold of
7 most other states in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, This exceptionally high threshold has caused
9 Illinois to be denied federal assistance for disasters striking
10 in primarily rural areas frequently during the last decade; and

11 WHEREAS, Members of the Illinois congressional delegation
12 have introduced legislation to correct this unfair federal
13 disaster assistance threshold formula; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we urge the members of the United States House of
17 Representatives to correct this outdated and unfair system by
18 passing H.R. 3925, the Fairness in Federal Disaster
19 Declarations Act; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge the members of the United States
21 Senate to pass S. 1960, the Fairness in Federal Disaster

1 Declarations Act; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to the members of the Illinois congressional
4 delegation.