

United States

Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006'

Citation: Public Law 109–308 (2006)

Citation: 2006 120 STAT. 1725

Summary:

(Derived from the U.S. House press release) The destructive force of Hurricane Katrina exposed many flaws in our nation's emergency preparedness programs. One easily correctible issue that has come to light is that many of our city and state authorities' disaster plans do not take into account how to rescue the portion of the population who are pet owners. In order to qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding, a city or state is required to submit a plan detailing its disaster preparedness program. The PETS Act would simply require that the State and local emergency preparedness authorities include how they will accommodate households with pets or service animals when presenting these plans to the FEMA. This bi-partisan legislation is necessary because Hurricane Katrina has clearly shown that when given a choice between their own personal safety or abandoning their household pets, a significant number of people will choose to risk their lives in order to remain with their pets. It is now clear that we must require these jurisdictions to have plans in effect to deal with their pet-owning populations as a matter of public safety.

There are significant problems, including serious health

Statute in Full:

PUBLIC LAW 109–308—OCT. 6, 2006 120 STAT. 1725

Public Law 109–308

109th Congress

An Act

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006”.

## **SEC. 2. STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.**

Section 613 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) **STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.**—In approving standards for State and local emergency preparedness operational plans pursuant to subsection

(b)(3), the Director shall ensure that such plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.”.

## **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEASURES OF THE DIRECTOR.**

Section 611 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) plans that take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.”; and

(2) in subsection (j)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) The Director may make financial contributions, on the basis of programs or projects approved by the Director, to the States and local authorities for animal emergency preparedness

purposes, including the procurement, construction, leasing, or renovating of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.’’.

**SEC. 4. PROVIDING ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH HOUSEHOLD PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS FOLLOWING A DISASTER.**

Section 403(a)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period and inserting ‘‘; and’’; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(J) provision of rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs—

‘‘(i) to individuals with household pets and service animals; and

‘‘(ii) to such pets and animals.’’.

Approved October 6, 2006.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3858:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 152 (2006):

May 22, considered and passed House.

Aug. 3, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 20, House concurred in Senate amendment.