



Florida League of Cities

**ALERT**

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**FAST** Federal Action Strike Team

May 4, 2017

Yesterday, [H.R. 1678](#), the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act passed U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of [423-0](#).

This bill amends the Stafford Act to change the 3-year statute of limitations by which FEMA can recover payments to begin once the Project Worksheet is completed, rather than waiting until completion of the final expenditure report for the entire disaster. The Florida League of Cities supports this legislation.

This change is needed to provide certainty to local governments that receive FEMA disaster assistance funds. Once the local government's final expenditure report has been transmitted or "closed out", FEMA can only seek to deobligate funds from the local government within 3 years. The legislation would apply to disaster emergency assistance that was provided to a state or local government on or after January 1, 2004.

Please thank [Congresswoman Lois Frankel](#) (D-21) the primary sponsor of H.R. 1678, who has spearheaded efforts to get this through the U.S. House. Please also thank [Florida's congressional delegation](#) in the U.S. House for supporting H.R. 1678.

In the U.S. Senate, Senator Bill Nelson has introduced [S. 709](#), the Disaster Assistance Improvement Act of 2017, which would also clarify the 3-year statute of limitations.

The Florida League of Cities greatly appreciates the work of Congresswoman Frankel, Senator Nelson and the Florida Congressional Delegation to resolve this important issue.