

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2548

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5, 2006

Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

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.

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 “Pets Evacuation and  
5       Transportation Standards Act of 2006”.

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

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

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
7 section (h); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(g) STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMER-  
11 GENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.—In ap-  
12 proving standards for State and local emergency prepared-  
13 ness operational plans pursuant to subsection (b)(3), the  
14 Director shall ensure that such plans take into account  
15 the needs of individuals with household pets and service  
16 animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster  
17 or emergency.”.

18 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEASURES OF THE**  
19 **DIRECTOR.**

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

23 (1) in subsection (e)—

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

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-  
2 riod and inserting “; and”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

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

8 (2) in subsection (j)—

9 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
10 through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), re-  
11 spectively; and

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

14 “(2) The Director may make financial contribu-  
15 tions, on the basis of programs or projects approved  
16 by the Director, to the States and local authorities  
17 for animal emergency preparedness purposes, includ-  
18 ing the procurement, construction, leasing, or ren-  
19 ovating of emergency shelter facilities and materials  
20 that will accommodate people with pets and service  
21 animals.”.

1 **SEC. 4. PROVIDING ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVID-**  
2 **UALS WITH HOUSEHOLD PETS AND SERVICE**  
3 **ANIMALS FOLLOWING A DISASTER.**

4 Section 403(a)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster  
5 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
6 5170b(a)(3)) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and” at  
8 the end;

9 (2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period  
10 and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(J) provision of rescue, care, shelter, and  
13 essential needs—

14 “(i) to individuals with household pets  
15 and service animals; and

16 “(ii) to such pets and animals.”.

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