

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 12

By: Rabon of the Senate

and

Matlock, Erwin, Mass,
Fields, Miller (Ray),
McCarter and Hilliard of
the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution finding the winter blizzard that hit the state to be of such magnitude that local governments exhausted their financial resources for Category A (debris removal); directing the Department of Civil Emergency Management to exclusively provide state funds for Category A (debris removal); and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the ice storm that began on Christmas Day, 2000, paralyzed most of southeastern Oklahoma; it toppled trees, disrupted electric service, burst pipes and damaged roads, bridges, parks, homes, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, in early January 2001, President Bill Clinton issued a major disaster declaration for an emergency for the State of Oklahoma. As of the end of February 2001, a total of 65 Oklahoma counties were on the list; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2001, Governor Keating requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), due to damage severity and financial impact, provide 100% federal funding for all eligible Public Assistance damages. For most disaster declarations, Public Assistance damages are funded 75% federal, 12.5% state and 12.5% local. The only exceptions to this formula Oklahoma has experienced were the Oklahoma City Bombing (100% federal for Categories A & B, under an emergency declaration) and the May 3, 1999 Tornadoes (100%

federal for a limited period of time). FEMA responded to the Governor's request by providing 90% federal funding for Category A: Debris Removal, for work accomplished between December 25, 2000 and July 6, 2001. This is the first time the state has received a 90-10 cost share split on any eligible disaster damages; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have been severely stressed as a result of the series of winter storms and have already depleted all financial reserves for emergency response to this crisis situation and, thus, are unable to match any Category A (debris removal) storm-related federal grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature finds that the devastating ice storm that hit the state this last winter was of a magnitude far exceeding the most severe winter storm ever to hit our state and created such damage that it would be unreasonable to expect local governments to have the financial resources to match Category A (debris removal) storm-related federal aid.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature directs the Department of Civil Emergency Management to utilize only state funds to match the state portion of any Category A (debris removal) resulting from the 2000-2001 ice storm.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Director of the Department of Civil Emergency Management.

48-1-1066

THC

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