

IRS Increases Mileage Rate for Remainder of 2022

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rate for the final 6 months of 2022. Taxpayers may use the optional standard mileage rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business and certain other purposes.

For the final 6 months of 2022, the standard mileage rate for business travel will be 62.5 cents per mile, up 4 cents from the rate effective at the start of the year. The new rate for deductible medical or moving expenses (available for active-duty members of the military) will be 22 cents for the remainder of 2022, up 4 cents from the rate effective at the start of 2022. The 14 cents per mile rate for charitable organizations remains unchanged as it is set by statute.

These new rates will go into effect on July 1, 2022. The IRS provided legal guidance on the new rates in [Announcement 2022-13](#). The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year. However, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2022 in light of recent gasoline price increases.

For guidance on travel from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2022, taxpayers should use the rates set forth in [IRS Notice 2022-03](#).

House Passes Bill to Expedite Disaster Relief in Rural Communities

This week, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 7211, the Small State and Rural Rescue Act, which would ensure fair access to federal aid for small states and rural communities impacted by flooding and other disasters.

Local authorities face unique challenges when responding to disasters in small states and rural communities, including obstacles to demonstrating the severe localized impact of these incidents. As a result, these communities often struggle to access federal disaster aid through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and are underserved by relief programs. The Small State and Rural Rescue Act would bolster the role of FEMA's Small State and Rural Advocate to ensure disaster-impacted communities have fair access to federal relief programs.

Specifically, the bill would expand and codify the responsibilities of FEMA's Small State and Rural Advocate when helping state and local officials demonstrate localized impact and apply for federal disaster aid. It would also Directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a review on how FEMA mobilizes individual assistance in the aftermath of a disaster. The bill now moves to the Senate.