

Union Calendar No. 644

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6140

[Report No. 118-779]

To facilitate access to swiftly transport goods during a publicly announced state of emergency situation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. BALDERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. CARSON, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. LAWLER

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 1, 2023]

A BILL

To facilitate access to swiftly transport goods during a publicly announced state of emergency situation.

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 “Facilitating Access to*
5 *Swiftly Transport Goods during a Publicly Announced*
6 *State of Emergency Situation Act” or the “FAST PASS*
7 *Act”.*

8 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON CRITICAL CARGO.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date*
10 *of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Transportation*
11 *shall initiate a study to examine—*

12 *(1) efforts to expedite the movement of critical*
13 *cargo through ports and marine terminals; and*

14 *(2) methodologies, practices, and processes for*
15 *moving such cargo during an event for which an*
16 *emergency is declared by the President or a Federal*
17 *agency.*

18 *(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under sub-*
19 *section (a), the Secretary shall examine methodologies,*
20 *practices, and processes for—*

21 *(1) identifying critical cargo and expediting the*
22 *movement of such cargo through the marine terminals*
23 *and ports;*

1 (2) *expediting the movement of critical cargo*
2 *across all modes of transportation after leaving ma-*
3 *rine terminals and ports; and*

4 (3) *mitigating the impact on the movement of*
5 *other cargo that is not critical.*

6 (c) *CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under*
7 *subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—*

8 (1) *the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-*
9 *ices; and*

10 (2) *other relevant Federal agencies.*

11 (d) *REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall*
12 *issue a request for information in the Federal Register seek-*
13 *ing public comment on the matters to be considered in the*
14 *study required under subsection (a).*

15 (e) *REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of*
16 *enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the*
17 *Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the*
18 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,*
19 *Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report con-*
20 *taining—*

21 (1) *the findings of the study conducted under*
22 *subsection (a); and*

23 (2) *recommendations for methodologies, prac-*
24 *tices, and processes described in such subsection, in-*
25 *cluding recommendations for using data from com-*

1 *mercial and government data tracking initiatives*
2 *to—*

3 *(A) determine when cargo is critical and*
4 *needs to be expedited;*

5 *(B) identify such critical cargo at port and*
6 *marine terminals; and*

7 *(C) expedite the movement and distribution*
8 *of such cargo to end users.*

9 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM.**

10 *(a) VOLUNTARY PILOT PROGRAMS.—In conducting the*
11 *study required under section 2, the Secretary may establish*
12 *1 or more voluntary pilot programs to test the effectiveness*
13 *of methodologies, practices, and processes for expediting the*
14 *movement of critical cargo through ports and marine termi-*
15 *nals.*

16 *(b) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may only establish*
17 *a pilot program under subsection (a) if the Secretary deter-*
18 *mines that the pilot program does not—*

19 *(1) allow for the purchase of any fully auto-*
20 *mated cargo handling equipment that is remotely op-*
21 *erated or remotely monitored with or without the ex-*
22 *ercise of human intervention or control; or*

23 *(2) result in a net loss of jobs within a port or*
24 *port terminal.*

1 **SEC. 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

2 *Nothing in this Act shall be construed to interfere with*

3 *or supersede any port labor agreements.*

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