

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5281

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the President to automatically waive certain critical document fees for individuals and households affected by major disasters for which assistance is provided under the Individuals and Households Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

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

A BILL

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the President to automatically waive certain critical document fees for individuals and households affected by major disasters for which assistance is provided under the Individuals and Households Program.

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 “Replacing Essential
5 Passports and Licenses After Certain Emergencies Act”
6 or the “REPLACE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CRITICAL DOCUMENT FEE WAIVER.**

2 Section 1238(a) of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act
3 of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174b) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “applies re-
5 gardless” and inserting “and the requirement of the
6 President to waive fees under paragraph (4) apply
7 regardless”;

8 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
9 graph (8); and

10 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(4) WAIVER.—The President, in consultation
13 with the Governor of a State, shall provide a fee
14 waiver described in paragraph (1) to any individual
15 or household that has been adversely affected by a
16 major disaster declared under section 401 of the
17 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
18 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170)—

19 “(A) for which the President provides as-
20 sistance to individuals and households under
21 section 408 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 5174); and

22 “(B) that destroyed a critical document de-
23 scribed in paragraph (1) of the individual or
24 household.

25 “(5) WAIVER AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of
26 State and the Director of the United States Citizen-

1 ship and Immigration Services shall make publicly
2 available on the website of the Department of State
3 and the United States Citizenship and Immigration
4 Services, respectively, a notice of the availability of
5 fee waivers described in paragraph (4).

6 “(6) REPORT FROM USCIS.—Not later than 1
7 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
8 and every year thereafter, the Director of the United
9 States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall
10 submit to Congress a report that includes, for the
11 period covered by the report—

12 “(A) the number of fee waivers granted
13 under this subsection; and

14 “(B) the cost to the United States Citizen-
15 ship and Immigration Services of granting fee
16 waivers under this subsection.

17 “(7) REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—
18 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
19 of this paragraph, and every year thereafter, the
20 Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report
21 that includes, for the period covered by the report—

22 “(A) the number of fee waivers granted
23 under this subsection; and

1 “(B) the cost to the Department of State
2 of granting fee waivers under this subsection.”.

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