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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for certain procedures following the declaration of a major disaster, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for certain procedures following the declaration of a major disaster, and for other purposes.

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 “Disaster Recovery and
5 Resilience Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. MAJOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS.—Title IV of the
3 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
4 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 431. APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS.**

7 “(a) JONES ACT.—Notwithstanding sections 12103,
8 12112, and 55102 of title 46, United States Code, the
9 Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is
10 operating shall exempt a vessel from the requirements of
11 such sections if the Secretary determines that the owner
12 or operator of the vessel has reasonably demonstrated that
13 the exemption is needed to provide disaster relief to an
14 area affected by a major disaster declared under this title
15 for a period of 180 days after the declaration of such
16 major disaster.

17 “(b) DAVIS-BACON ACT.—With respect to a major
18 disaster declared under this title, any requirement under
19 subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States
20 Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Davis-Bacon Act’),
21 shall not apply with respect to any project carried out
22 under this title that is related to the repair of damage
23 caused by such major disaster.”.

24 (b) EMERGENCY RECOVERY BOARD.—Title IV of the
25 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

1 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is amended by adding
2 at the end the following:

3 **“SEC. 432. EMERGENCY RECOVERY BOARD.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
5 first declaration of a major disaster under section 401,
6 for each category of disaster in any calendar year, the
7 President shall establish a board to review the process and
8 procedures related to recovery following such category of
9 disaster.

10 “(b) MEMBERS.—Each board established under sub-
11 section (a) shall include the following members:

12 “(1) The Secretary of Transportation.

13 “(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

14 “(3) The Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
15 velopment.

16 “(4) The Administrator of the Federal Emer-
17 gency Management Agency.

18 “(5) The State officials in areas affected by the
19 category of disaster who are equivalent to the offi-
20 cials described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

21 “(6) Local officials in areas affected by the cat-
22 egory of disaster.

23 “(7) An employee of the House of Representa-
24 tives appointed by the Speaker in consultation with
25 the minority leader.

1 “(8) An employee of the Senate appointed by
2 the majority leader in consultation with the minority
3 leader.

4 “(c) REPORT.—

5 “(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days
6 after the establishment of each board under sub-
7 section (a), such board shall submit to Congress and
8 to the heads of each agency described in paragraphs
9 (1) through (3) of subsection (b) a report providing
10 recommendations on any immediate barriers that the
11 Federal and State governments may remove to aid
12 recovery.

13 “(2) SECONDARY REPORT.—Not later than 90
14 days after the establishment of each board under
15 subsection (a), such board shall submit to Congress
16 a report providing recommendations on any legisla-
17 tive or regulatory changes to aid in the recovery of
18 future disasters in the category of disaster.

19 “(d) CATEGORY OF DISASTER DEFINED.—In this
20 section, the term ‘category of disaster’ means each indi-
21 vidual type of disaster described in the definition of ‘major
22 disaster’ in section 102 of this Act.”.

23 (c) HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 404(d)(1) of the
24 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
25 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(d)(1)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (A) by striking “that applicable environ-
3 mental reviews” and inserting the following:

4 “(i) that applicable environmental re-
5 views”; and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(ii) compliance with any applicable
8 requirements under the Federal Water Pol-
9 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et
10 seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401
11 et seq.), and the Endangered Species Act
12 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and”.

13 (2) in subparagraph (B) by inserting “, the
14 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
15 1251 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401
16 et seq.), and the Endangered Species Act of 1973
17 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),” after “1969”.

18 (d) REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND REPLACEMENT OF
19 DAMAGED FACILITIES.—Section 406 of the Robert T.
20 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
21 (42 U.S.C. 5172) is amended by adding at the end the
22 following:

23 “(f) ALLOWANCE FOR PRESCHEDULED TECHNO-
24 LOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the repair,
2 restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a facil-
3 ity carried out under this section, the President shall
4 install any prescheduled technological improvement
5 to such facility during any such repair, restoration,
6 reconstruction, or replacement.

7 “(2) PRESCHEDULED TECHNOLOGICAL IM-
8 PROVEMENT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term
9 ‘prescheduled technological improvement’ means a
10 technological improvement to a facility that was
11 scheduled, procured, and had funding set aside for
12 installation before the major disaster declaration.”.