

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4039

To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to allow the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be eligible to receive certain funding for use providing basic essential ferry service in rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2025

Ms. KING-HINDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to allow the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be eligible to receive certain funding for use providing basic essential ferry service in rural areas, 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 “Connecting the North-
5 ern Mariana Islands through Ferry Services Act” or the
6 “CNMI Ferry Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FERRY SERVICE FUNDING FOR THE COMMON-**
2 **WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA IS-**
3 **LANDS.**

4 Section 71103 of the Infrastructure Investment and
5 Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 147 note) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by striking “means a ferry service”
9 and all that follows through the period and
10 inserting “means—”; and

11 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(A) a ferry service that—

14 “(i) operated a regular schedule at
15 any time during the 5-year period ending
16 on March 1, 2020; and

17 “(ii) served not less than 2 rural
18 areas located more than 50 sailing miles
19 apart; and

20 “(B) a ferry service operating, or being
21 planned or established with the intent that the
22 ferry service operate, a regular schedule in the
23 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
24 lands.”;

25 (B) in paragraph (3) to read as follows:

26 “(3) RURAL AREA.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘rural area’
2 has the meaning given the term in section 5302
3 of title 49, United States Code.

4 “(B) COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
5 MARIANA ISLANDS.—For purposes of the pro-
6 gram established under subsection (b), the
7 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
8 lands, and any area therein, shall be deemed to
9 be a rural area.”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any
12 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
13 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Common-
14 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United
15 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and
16 any other territory or possession of the United
17 States.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (c) by striking “including re-
19 quirements for the provision of funds to States.”
20 and inserting “including—

21 “(1) requirements for the provision of funds to
22 States; and

23 “(2) requirements for the provision of funds to
24 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

1 for the establishment and operation of an eligible
2 service.”.

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