

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5794

To authorize the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue disaster relief, recovery, and mitigation operations funded through the Disaster Relief Fund in the event of a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 2025

Mr. BELL (for himself, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. FIELDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue disaster relief, recovery, and mitigation operations funded through the Disaster Relief Fund in the event of a lapse in appropriations, 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 “FEMA Operations
5 Continuity Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONTINUATION OF FEMA OPERATIONS DURING A**
2 **LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.**

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the
4 event of a lapse in appropriations, the Administrator of
5 the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall be au-
6 thorized to—

7 (1) continue all disaster relief, recovery, and
8 mitigation operations funded through the Disaster
9 Relief Fund;

10 (2) obligate and disburse Disaster Relief Fund
11 balances for all existing and future disaster declara-
12 tions, including individual and public assistance
13 under sections 403, 406, 407, 408, and 502 of the
14 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
15 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b, 5172, 5173, 5174,
16 and 5192); and

17 (3) maintain personnel and contract support
18 necessary to ensure uninterrupted processing of
19 claims and payments.

20 **SEC. 3. USE OF DISASTER RELIEF FUND.**

21 (a) AVAILABILITY.—All unobligated balances in the
22 Disaster Relief Fund shall remain available to the Admin-
23 istrator for expenditure during a lapse in appropriations.

24 (b) PROHIBITION ON DIVERSION.—No funds from
25 the Disaster Relief Fund may be withheld, sequestered,
26 or reprogrammed during a lapse in appropriations, except

1 as necessary to comply with section 1341 of title 31,
2 United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Anti-
3 Deficiency Act’).

4 **SEC. 4. EXCEPTION FROM GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN RE-**
5 **STRICTIONS.**

6 For purposes of section 1341 of title 31, United
7 States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Anti-Deficiency
8 Act’), operations of the Federal Emergency Management
9 Agency authorized under this Act shall be considered es-
10 sential to protect human life and property, and therefore
11 exempt from shutdown restrictions.

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