

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8577

To provide for a procedure for Congress to carry out a reversal of a decision by the President not to declare a major disaster requested by the Governor of a State under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2026

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. PETTERSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a procedure for Congress to carry out a reversal of a decision by the President not to declare a major disaster requested by the Governor of a State under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 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 Declaration
5 Transparency Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REVERSAL OF RE-**
2 **FUSAL TO DECLARE MAJOR DISASTER.**

3 Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
4 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(d) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—

7 “(1) COVERED REFUSAL.—In this subsection,
8 the term ‘covered refusal’ means an instance in
9 which—

10 “(A) the Governor of a State requests a
11 declaration by the President of a major disaster
12 under subsection (a); and

13 “(B) the President declines to declare such
14 a major disaster—

15 “(i) contrary to a recommendation
16 provided by the Administrator of the Fed-
17 eral Emergency Management Agency; or

18 “(ii) based on a recommendation by
19 the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
20 gency Management Agency not to approve
21 the declaration that is contrary to estab-
22 lished precedent.

23 “(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Not later
24 than 24 hours after issuing a covered refusal, the
25 President shall submit to the Speaker of the House

1 of Representatives and the President of the Senate
2 a written explanation of the covered refusal.

3 “(e) DECLARATION BY JOINT RESOLUTION.—

4 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

5 “(A) COVERED JOINT RESOLUTION.—The
6 term ‘covered joint resolution’ means only a
7 joint resolution of either House of Congress—

8 “(i) introduced not later than 14 cal-
9 endar days after the date on which Con-
10 gress receives a notification under sub-
11 section (d)(2) relating to a covered refusal;
12 and

13 “(ii) the sole matter after the resolv-
14 ing clause of which is as follows: ‘That the
15 President shall declare a major disaster
16 under section 401 of the Robert T. Staf-
17 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
18 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) relating to
19 _____’, the blanks being filled
20 in with a description of the disaster that is
21 the subject of the covered refusal.

22 “(B) COVERED REFUSAL.—The term ‘cov-
23 ered refusal’ has the meaning given the term in
24 subsection (d).

1 “(2) INTRODUCTION.—A covered joint resolu-
2 tion may be introduced—

3 “(A) in the House of Representatives, by
4 the majority leader (or the majority leader’s
5 designee) or the minority leader (or the minor-
6 ity leader’s designee); and

7 “(B) in the Senate, by the majority leader
8 (or the majority leader’s designee) or the mi-
9 nority leader (or the minority leader’s des-
10 ignee).

11 “(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES.—

13 “(A) DISCHARGE FROM COMMITTEE.—If a
14 committee of the House of Representatives to
15 which a covered joint resolution has been re-
16 ferred has not reported the joint resolution
17 within 2 calendar days after the date of referral
18 of the joint resolution, the committee shall be
19 discharged from further consideration of the
20 joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be
21 placed on the appropriate calendar.

22 “(B) MOVING TO CONSIDERATION.—At
23 any time after a covered joint resolution has
24 been placed on the appropriate calendar, it is in
25 order for the sponsor of the joint resolution (or

1 a designee) to move for the consideration of
2 that joint resolution.

3 “(C) POINTS OF ORDER; MOTIONS.—All
4 points of order against the covered joint resolu-
5 tion and its consideration are waived. If the mo-
6 tion under subparagraph (B) is agreed to, the
7 joint resolution shall remain the unfinished
8 business of the House of Representatives until
9 disposed of, except as provided in paragraph
10 (5).

11 “(D) NO AMENDMENTS.—A covered joint
12 resolution shall not be subject to amendment in
13 the House of Representatives.

14 “(E) DEBATE.—General debate on a cov-
15 ered joint resolution shall not exceed 4 hours,
16 which shall be equally divided and controlled by
17 the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a des-
18 ignee) and an opponent.

19 “(F) FINAL PASSAGE.—At the conclusion
20 of debate, the previous question shall be consid-
21 ered as ordered on the resolution, and the
22 House of Representatives shall vote on final
23 passage without intervening motion.

24 “(4) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

1 “(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the
2 committee of the Senate to which a covered
3 joint resolution was referred has not reported
4 the joint resolution within 2 calendar days after
5 the date of referral of the joint resolution, that
6 committee shall be discharged from further con-
7 sideration of the joint resolution and the joint
8 resolution shall be placed on the appropriate
9 calendar.

10 “(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—
11 Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing
12 Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time
13 after the committee of the Senate to which a
14 covered joint resolution was referred reports the
15 joint resolution to the Senate or has been dis-
16 charged from consideration of the joint resolu-
17 tion (even though a previous motion to the
18 same effect has been disagreed to) to move to
19 proceed to the consideration of the joint resolu-
20 tion, and all points of order against the joint
21 resolution (and against consideration of the
22 joint resolution) are waived. The motion to pro-
23 ceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject
24 to a motion to postpone.

1 “(C) NO AMENDMENTS.—An amendment
2 to a covered joint resolution, or a motion to
3 postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consid-
4 eration of other business, or a motion to recom-
5 mit a covered joint resolution, is not in order.

6 “(D) CONSIDERATION.—

7 “(i) LIMITATION ON DEBATE.—Con-
8 sideration in the Senate of a covered joint
9 resolution shall be limited to not more than
10 10 hours, which shall be equally divided
11 between, and controlled by, the majority
12 leader and the minority leader, or by their
13 designees.

14 “(ii) VOTE ON ADOPTION.—Whenever
15 all the time for debate on a covered joint
16 resolution has been used or yielded back,
17 the vote on the passage of the resolution
18 shall occur without any intervening motion
19 or amendment, except that a single
20 quorum call at the conclusion of the debate
21 if requested in accordance with the Rules
22 of the Senate may occur immediately be-
23 fore such vote.

24 “(E) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
25 DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair

relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a covered joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(F) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to a covered joint resolution, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with the joint resolution, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

“(5) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) TREATMENT OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives, the following procedures shall apply to a covered joint resolution received from the Senate (unless the House has already passed a joint resolution relating to the same proposed action):

“(i) The joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate committees.

“(ii) If a committee to which a joint resolution has been referred has not re-

1 ported the joint resolution within 2 cal-
2 endar days after the date of referral, that
3 committee shall be discharged from further
4 consideration of the joint resolution.

5 “(iii) Beginning on the third legisla-
6 tive day after the committee to which a
7 joint resolution has been referred reports
8 the joint resolution to the House of Rep-
9 resentatives or has been discharged from
10 further consideration thereof, it shall be in
11 order to move to proceed to consider the
12 joint resolution in the House of Represent-
13 atives. All points of order against the mo-
14 tion are waived. Such a motion shall not be
15 in order after the House of Representatives
16 has disposed of a motion to proceed on the
17 joint resolution. The previous question
18 shall be considered as ordered on the mo-
19 tion to its adoption without intervening
20 motion. The motion shall not be debatable.
21 A motion to reconsider the vote by which
22 the motion is disposed of shall not be in
23 order.

24 “(iv) The joint resolution shall be con-
25 sidered as read. All points of order against

1 the joint resolution and against its consid-
2 eration are waived. The previous question
3 shall be considered as ordered on the joint
4 resolution to final passage without inter-
5 vening motion except 4 hours of debate
6 equally divided and controlled by the spon-
7 sor of the joint resolution (or a designee)
8 and an opponent. A motion to reconsider
9 the vote on passage of the joint resolution
10 shall not be in order.

11 “(B) TREATMENT OF HOUSE OF REP-
12 RESENTATIVES JOINT RESOLUTION IN SEN-
13 ATE.—

14 “(i) RECEIPT BEFORE PASSAGE.—If,
15 before the passage by the Senate of a cov-
16 ered joint resolution, the Senate receives
17 an identical joint resolution from the
18 House of Representatives, the following
19 procedures shall apply:

20 “(I) That joint resolution shall
21 not be referred to a committee.

22 “(II) With respect to that joint
23 resolution—

24 “(aa) the procedure in the
25 Senate shall be the same as if no

1 joint resolution had been received
2 from the House of Representa-
3 tives; but

4 “(bb) the vote on passage
5 shall be on the joint resolution
6 from the House of Representa-
7 tives.

8 “(ii) RECEIPT AFTER PASSAGE.—If,
9 following passage of a covered joint resolu-
10 tion in the Senate, the Senate receives an
11 identical joint resolution from the House of
12 Representatives, that joint resolution shall
13 be placed on the appropriate Senate cal-
14 endar.

15 “(iii) NO COMPANION MEASURE.—If a
16 covered joint resolution is received from
17 the House of Representatives, and no com-
18 panion joint resolution has been introduced
19 in the Senate, the Senate procedures under
20 this subsection shall apply to the House of
21 Representatives joint resolution.

22 “(C) APPLICATION TO REVENUE MEAS-
23 URES.—The provisions of this paragraph shall
24 not apply in the House of Representatives to a

1 covered joint resolution that is a revenue meas-
2 ure.

3 “(6) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
4 AND SENATE.—This subsection is enacted by Con-
5 gress—

6 “(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking
7 power of the Senate and the House of Rep-
8 resentatives, respectively, and as such is deemed
9 a part of the rules of each House, respectively,
10 and supersedes other rules only to the extent
11 that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

12 “(B) with full recognition of the constitu-
13 tional right of either House to change the rules
14 (so far as relating to the procedure of that
15 House) at any time, in the same manner, and
16 to the same extent as in the case of any other
17 rule of that House.”.

○