

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8593

To provide a temporary waiver of certain Federal and State laws governing fireworks displays during the 250th anniversary year of the United States, while preserving local authority, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2026

Mr. CALVERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To provide a temporary waiver of certain Federal and State laws governing fireworks displays during the 250th anniversary year of the United States, while preserving local authority, 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 “Fireworks for Freedom
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary
2 of the founding of the United States, commemorated
3 as “America250”.

4 (2) Public fireworks displays have served as a
5 quintessential American tradition of patriotic cele-
6 bration since the first anniversary of independence
7 in 1777.

8 (3) The semiquincentennial represents a sin-
9 gular national milestone, and the entirety of cal-
10 endar year 2026 constitutes a year-long national
11 commemoration meriting unprecedented public cele-
12 bration across all 50 States, the District of Colum-
13 bia, and the territories.

14 (4) A streamlined Federal and State regulatory
15 framework will facilitate communities of all sizes in
16 honoring this historic occasion, while local govern-
17 ments remain best positioned to address site-specific
18 safety, fire risk, and community concerns.

19 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to enable
20 maximum public participation in fireworks displays during
21 the 250th anniversary year of the United States by tempo-
22 rarily suspending Federal and State regulatory restric-
23 tions thereon, while preserving the authority of units of
24 local government, and while preserving Federal and State
25 authority over the manufacture, sale, purchase, and trans-

1 portation of fireworks and over safety standards applicable
2 to covered fireworks displays.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) COVERED FIREWORKS DISPLAY.—The term
6 “covered fireworks display” means any public or pri-
7 vate display of fireworks, including consumer, com-
8 mercial, or display-grade pyrotechnics, conducted
9 within the United States during the covered period.

10 (2) COVERED PERIOD.—The term “covered pe-
11 riod” means the period beginning on the date of en-
12 actment of this Act and ending on December 31,
13 2026.

14 (3) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term
15 “unit of local government” means any county, mu-
16 nicipality, town, township, village, parish, borough,
17 special district, federally recognized Indian Tribe, or
18 other general-purpose political subdivision of a
19 State, including any fire protection district or fire
20 marshal exercising authority delegated by such sub-
21 division.

22 **SEC. 4. WAIVER OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAW.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
24 sion of law, during the covered period, no provision of Fed-
25 eral or State law, regulation, or rule shall apply to, re-

1 strict, prohibit, or impose penalties upon any covered fire-
2 works display or the persons conducting such display, ex-
3 cept that each waiver applies only to the act of conducting
4 the display and to the possession and use of fireworks sole-
5 ly at the display site during the display event itself.

6 (b) SCOPE OF WAIVER.—The waiver under sub-
7 section (a) shall include Federal and State laws and regu-
8 lations concerning—

9 (1) State and local event permitting and dis-
10 play-operation licensing requirements only, while
11 preserving Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and
12 Firearms licensing and certification of pyrotechnic
13 operators, manufacturers, dealers, and importers
14 under chapter 40 of title 18, United States Code;

15 (2) State-level venue storage and setback re-
16 quirements only, while preserving Federal classifica-
17 tion, labeling, and storage standards under chapter
18 40 of title 18, United States Code;

19 (3) State-level event notification requirements
20 only, while preserving Federal Environmental Pro-
21 tection Agency Clean Air Act standards; and

22 (4) State-level fire codes, setback requirements,
23 burn restrictions, and noise standards.

24 (c) PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW ONLY.—No State
25 may enforce any State law, regulation, or rule inconsistent

1 with this section during the covered period, except that
2 this preemption does not apply to—

3 (1) State laws governing the manufacture, sale,
4 or purchase of fireworks or explosive materials;

5 (2) State occupational safety and health laws;
6 or

7 (3) State consumer product safety laws.

8 (d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion shall be construed to preempt, supersede, or limit any
10 law, regulation, ordinance, rule, code, or order of a unit
11 of local government.

12 (e) **CLARIFICATION.**—No formal designation, reg-
13 istration, sponsorship, or affiliation with America250 or
14 any official commemorative entity shall be required for a
15 fireworks display to qualify as a covered fireworks display,
16 as Congress recognizes that all fireworks displays during
17 calendar year 2026 occur within the context of the year-
18 long national celebration of the 250th anniversary of
19 American independence.

20 **SEC. 5. PRESERVATION OF FEDERAL AUTHORITY.**

21 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 4, the
22 following Federal laws and their implementing regulations
23 remain in full force:

1 (1) Chapter 40 of title 18, United States Code
2 (relating to explosive materials licensing, storage,
3 classification, and recordkeeping).

4 (2) Chapter 51 of title 49, United States Code
5 (relating to hazardous materials transportation).

6 (3) The Federal Hazardous Substances Act (15
7 U.S.C. 1261 et seq.) and all consumer and haz-
8 ardous products safety standards thereunder.

9 (4) The Occupational Safety and Health Act of
10 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) and all Occupational
11 Health and Safety Administration standards there-
12 under.

13 (5) The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)
14 and all Environmental Protection Agency regulations
15 promulgated thereunder.

16 (b) MANUFACTURE AND SALE.—Nothing in this Act
17 shall be construed to waive, suspend, or limit any Federal
18 or State law governing the manufacture, importation,
19 wholesale distribution, retail sale, or purchase of fireworks
20 or pyrotechnic materials.

21 **SEC. 6. PRESERVATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 4, units
23 of local government shall retain full authority to regulate,
24 restrict, condition, permit, or prohibit covered fireworks

1 displays within their respective jurisdictions, including au-
2 thority over—

3 (1) permitting, licensing, and inspection of dis-
4 plays and operators;

5 (2) local fire codes, burn bans, and red-flag re-
6 strictions;

7 (3) setback, separation, and fallout-zone re-
8 quirements;

9 (4) hours of operation and noise ordinances;

10 (5) zoning, land use, and crowd-management
11 requirements;

12 (6) insurance, bonding, and liability require-
13 ments;

14 (7) emergency response, evacuation, and public
15 notification requirements; and

16 (8) restrictions tailored to drought conditions,
17 wildland-urban interface areas, sensitive ecological
18 zones, hospitals, schools, places of worship, livestock
19 operations, or other site-specific concerns.

20 (b) DEFAULT TO LOCAL LAW.—Where a unit of local
21 government has not expressly authorized a covered fire-
22 works display, otherwise applicable local law shall continue
23 to govern.

24 (c) STATE ENABLING AUTHORITY UNAFFECTED.—
25 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish the au-

1 thority of a unit of local government that derives from a
2 State constitution, charter, or statute, to the extent such
3 authority is exercised by the unit of local government itself
4 rather than by the State.

5 (d) TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY.—Nothing in this Act
6 shall be construed to limit the inherent sovereign authority
7 of any federally recognized Indian Tribe to regulate fire-
8 works within its jurisdiction.

9 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

10 This Act, and the waiver provided under section 4,
11 shall expire at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on De-
12 cember 31, 2026.

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