

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4813

To amend title 46, United States Code, to provide for a waiver of navigation or vessel-inspection laws in noncontiguous areas upon a declaration of a major disaster or emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2025

Mr. MOYLAN (for himself, Mr. CASE, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. TORRES of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to provide for a waiver of navigation or vessel-inspection laws in noncontiguous areas upon a declaration of a major disaster or emergency, 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 “Noncontiguous Dis-
5 aster Shipping Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WAIVER IN A NONCONTIGUOUS AREA.**

7 Section 501 of title 46, United States Code, is
8 amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
2 subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
4 lowing new subsection:

5 “(c) IN A NONCONTIGUOUS AREA.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon a declaration by the
7 President pursuant to section 401 or 501 the Robert
8 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
9 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191) that a major dis-
10 aster or emergency exists in a noncontiguous area of
11 the United States, the head of an agency responsible
12 for the administration of the navigation or vessel-in-
13 spection laws shall waive compliance with such laws
14 for a vessel transporting cargo to or from the non-
15 contiguous area affected by such major disaster or
16 emergency for the purpose of disaster relief.

17 “(2) DURATION OF WAIVER.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
19 graphs (B) and (C), a waiver issued under this
20 subsection shall be for a period of not more
21 than 10 days.

22 “(B) WAIVER EXTENSION.—Upon the ter-
23 mination of a waiver issued under this sub-
24 section, the head of the agency referred to in
25 paragraph (1), in consultation with the Gov-

ernor of the noncontiguous area affected by such major disaster or emergency, may extend the waiver for an additional period of not more than 10 days.

“(C) AGGREGATE DURATION.—The aggregate duration of the period of all waivers and extensions of waivers under this subsection with respect to any one major disaster or emergency shall not exceed 45 days.

“(3) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of the agency referred to in paragraph (1) shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate of the issuance of any waiver of the navigation or vessel-inspection laws under this subsection not later than 48 hours after such issuance.

“(B) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR EXTENSIONS.—For the purposes of this paragraph, an extension issued under paragraph (2)(B) shall be treated in the same manner as a waiver issued under this subsection.

1 “(4) NONCONTIGUOUS AREA OF THE UNITED
2 STATES DEFINED.—For the purposes of this sub-
3 section, the term ‘noncontiguous area of the United
4 States’ means Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
5 Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the
6 Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, and Alaska.”.

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