

Calendar No. 341119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 337****[Report No. 119-112]**

A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration relating to the shipping of household goods, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 30, 2025

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, without amendment

A BILL

A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration relating to the shipping of household goods, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Household Goods Ship-
3 ping Consumer Protection Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PEN-**
5 **ALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF COMMERCIAL**
6 **REGULATIONS.**

7 (a) ENFORCEMENT BY SECRETARY.—Section 14914
8 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and
10 (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively;

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(b) ENFORCEMENT BY SECRETARY.—If, after no-
14 tice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary finds
15 that a person violated a provision of part B of subtitle
16 IV of this title, or a regulation or order issued pursuant
17 to such part, the Secretary shall assess a civil penalty by
18 written notice.”;

19 (3) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
20 graph (1), by inserting “or the Secretary” after
21 “Board”; and

22 (4) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
23 graph (1), by inserting “or the Secretary” after
24 “Board”.

25 (b) APPLICATION.—Section 501(b) of title 49, United
26 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “5,” after “20303 and chap-
2 ters”; and

3 (2) by inserting “311, 313,” after “chapters),”.

4 **SEC. 3. STATE USE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR COMMERCIAL**
5 **ENFORCEMENT AND CONSUMER PROTEC-**
6 **TION.**

7 Section 31102 of title 49, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) in subsection (h)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “and”
11 at the end;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking the
13 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

15 “(3) for the enforcement of Federal household
16 goods statutes and regulations for the interstate
17 transportation of household goods by household
18 goods motor carriers and brokers, and for the intra-
19 state transportation of household goods by household
20 goods motor carriers if the State has adopted laws
21 or regulations that are compatible with Federal
22 household goods regulations.”;

23 (2) in subsection (l)(2)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and”
25 at the end;

1 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as
2 subparagraph (K); and

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the
4 following:

5 “(J) enforce Federal household goods stat-
6 utes and regulations for the interstate transpor-
7 tation of household goods by household goods
8 motor carriers and brokers, and for the intra-
9 state transportation of household goods by
10 household goods motor carriers if the State has
11 adopted laws or regulations that are compatible
12 with Federal household goods regulations; and”;
13 and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(m) STATE DISCRETION.—The activities described
16 in subsections (h)(3) and (l)(2)(J) are—

17 “(1) optional at the discretion of a State; and

18 “(2) not a condition on funds received under
19 this section.”.

20 **SEC. 4. STATE RETENTION OF PENALTIES AND FINES.**

21 Section 14711 of title 49, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(g) PENALTIES.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
24 sion of law, any fine or penalty imposed on a carrier or
25 broker in a proceeding under this section shall be paid

1 to, and retained by, the State that imposed such fine or
2 penalty.”.

3 **SEC. 5. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 13102 of title 49, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(28) PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS.—The
8 term ‘principal place of business’ means a single
9 physical business location of a specified entity
10 where—

11 “(A) management officials of such speci-
12 fied entity report to work;

13 “(B) such specified entity conducts a sig-
14 nificant portion of its business relating to the
15 transportation of persons or property; and

16 “(C) such specified entity maintains
17 records required by part B of subtitle IV or
18 part B of subtitle VI.

19 “(29) SPECIFIED ENTITY.—The term ‘specified
20 entity’ means—

21 “(A) an employer, as such term is defined
22 in section 31132;

23 “(B) a person;

24 “(C) a motor carrier, including a foreign
25 motor carrier or foreign motor private carrier;

1 “(D) a broker; or

2 “(E) a freight forwarder.”.

3 (b) MOTOR CARRIER GENERALLY.—Section
4 13902(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
6 the end;

7 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
8 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(E) has designated a principal place of
11 business.”.

12 (c) REGISTRATION OF FREIGHT FORWARDERS.—
13 Section 13903(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
14 amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
16 end;

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
18 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(3) has designated a principal place of busi-
21 ness; and

22 “(4) has disclosed any relationship involving
23 common ownership, common management, common
24 control, or common familial relationship between
25 such person and any other motor carrier, freight for-

1 warder, broker, or any other applicant for motor
2 carrier, freight forwarder, or broker registration, if
3 the relationship occurred in the 3-year period pre-
4 ceding the date of the filing of the application for
5 registration.”.

6 (d) REGISTRATION OF BROKERS.—Section 13904(a)
7 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (1) by striking “and” after
9 the semicolon;

10 (2) in subsection (2) by striking the period and
11 inserting a semicolon; and

12 (3) by inserting at the end the following:

13 “(3) has designated a principal place of busi-
14 ness; and

15 “(4) has disclosed any relationship involving
16 common ownership, common management, common
17 control, or common familial relationship between
18 such person and any other motor carrier, freight for-
19 warder, or broker, or any other applicant for motor
20 carrier, freight forwarder, or broker registration, if
21 the relationship occurred in the 3-year period pre-
22 ceding the date of the filing of the application for
23 registration.”.

1 (e) COMPLAINTS AND ACTIONS ON SECRETARY INI-
2 TIATIVES.—Section 13905(d)(2) of title 49, United States
3 Code, is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (C)(iii), by striking “or” at
5 the end;

6 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
7 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(E) withhold, suspend, amend, or revoke
10 any part of a registration of a motor carrier,
11 foreign motor carrier, foreign motor private car-
12 rier, broker, or freight forwarder if the Sec-
13 retary finds that the motor carrier, foreign
14 motor carrier, foreign motor private carrier,
15 broker, or freight forwarder failed to designate
16 a valid principal place of business.”.

17 (f) REQUIREMENT FOR REGISTRATION AND USDOT
18 NUMBER.—Section 31134 of title 49, United States Code,
19 is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at
22 the end;

23 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
24 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

1 “(4) the employer or person seeking registra-
2 tion has designated a principal place of business, as
3 defined in section 13102.”; and

4 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “subsection
5 (b)(1)” and inserting “subsection (b)”.

Calendar No. 341

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