

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6253

To authorize the Maritime Administrator to make grants to States or port authorities to cover the cost of repair and construction activities relating to certain commercial strategic seaports, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 authorize the Maritime Administrator to make grants to States or port authorities to cover the cost of repair and construction activities relating to certain commercial strategic seaports, 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 “Ports-to-Forts Act of
5 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Seaports serve vital national interests by
2 supporting the mobilization and deployment of
3 United States troops, facilitating the flow of trade,
4 and creating jobs.

5 (2) The Commercial Strategic Seaport Grant
6 Program is designed to facilitate the movement of
7 military forces securely through United States sea-
8 ports with minimal disruptions to commerce.

9 (3) The exponential growth of commercial cargo
10 over the past 20 years has generated concern over
11 the potential for conflict between military and com-
12 mercial needs and about the future adequacy of the
13 commercial strategic seaport infrastructure to meet
14 national security requirements.

15 (4) The existing infrastructure at seaports may
16 not be readily available when required by the De-
17 partment of Defense.

18 **SEC. 3. COMMERCIAL STRATEGIC SEAPORT GRANT PRO-**
19 **GRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Maritime Administrator, sub-
21 ject to the availability of appropriations, may make a
22 grant to a State or port authority to assist that State or
23 port authority to conduct repair or construction activities
24 relating to a commercial strategic seaport.

25 (b) APPLICATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant
2 under this section, a State or port authority shall
3 submit to the Administrator, by not later than 1
4 year after publication of notice under paragraph (2),
5 an application in such form and containing such in-
6 formation as the Administrator may require. The
7 application shall include, at a minimum, a certifi-
8 cation that any grant funds received by the State or
9 port authority shall be used only as provided under
10 subsection (c).

11 (2) NOTICE.—Not later than 180 days after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
13 shall, in the Federal Register, publish notice that
14 applications are being accepted for grants under
15 subsection (a).

16 (3) APPLICATION ACCEPTABILITY.—If the Ad-
17 ministrator determines that an application received
18 under paragraph (1) is incomplete or unacceptable,
19 the Administrator shall—

20 (A) reject the application; and

21 (B) advise the State or port authority that
22 submitted the application of the reasons for the
23 rejection.

24 (4) REAPPLICATION.—If the Administrator re-
25 jects a State's or port authority's application under

1 paragraph (1), that State or port authority may sub-
2 mit an additional application under that paragraph
3 not later than the end of the 1-year application pe-
4 riod established under that paragraph.

5 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

6 (1) STATE.—A State that receives a grant
7 under subsection (a) may only use funds from such
8 grant for direct or indirect costs of repair or con-
9 struction activities relating to—

10 (A) a commercial strategic seaport; or

11 (B) bridges, roads, rail systems, and other
12 infrastructure in the vicinity of such seaport.

13 (2) PORT AUTHORITY.—A port authority that
14 receives a grant under subsection (a) may only use
15 funds from such grant for direct or indirect costs of
16 repair or construction activities relating to infra-
17 structure that is part of the commercial strategic
18 seaport.

19 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1
20 year after the date on which a State or port authority re-
21 ceives a grant under subsection (a), and annually there-
22 after until all repair or construction activities to be carried
23 out under the grant are completed, the State or port au-
24 thority shall submit a report to the Administrator that in-
25 cludes—

1 (1) a description of the progress made with re-
2 spect to such activities; and

3 (2) a detailed list of all expenses related to such
4 activities.

5 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF DEPARTMENT OF
6 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS.—Such sums as are necessary
7 to carry out this section may be used by the Maritime Ad-
8 ministrator from any amounts otherwise appropriated for
9 the Department of Defense after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act.

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) COMMERCIAL STRATEGIC SEAPORT.—The
13 term “commercial strategic seaport” means a port
14 (including bridges, roads, rail systems, and other in-
15 frastructure that is part of the port) that the Sec-
16 retary of Defense has determined to be vital to the
17 readiness and cargo throughput capacity of the De-
18 partment of Defense.

19 (2) PORT AUTHORITY.—The term “port author-
20 ity” means a local port authority with jurisdiction
21 over a commercial strategic seaport.

22 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
23 the several States of the United States and Guam.

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