

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3782

To provide emergency relief for American short line railroads, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 1, 2023

Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BACON, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BOST, Mr. MANN, and Mr. LATURNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide emergency relief for American short line railroads, 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 “Short Line Railroad
5 Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SHORT LINE RAILROAD EMERGENCY RELIEF PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Trans-
9 portation, in consultation with the Administrator of the

1 Federal Railroad Administration, may make grants or
2 enter into contracts and other agreements (including
3 agreements with departments, agencies, and instrumental-
4 ities of the Federal, State, or local government) for capital
5 projects to protect, repair, reconstruct, or replace short
6 line railroad equipment and facilities that the Secretary
7 determines is in danger of suffering catastrophic damage,
8 or has suffered catastrophic damage, as a result of an
9 emergency.

10 (b) TERMS.—In making grants under subsection (a),
11 the Secretary may make grants on a reimbursable basis
12 or advance funding basis.

13 (c) COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY FUNDS.—Funds
14 appropriated to carry out this section shall be in addition
15 to any other funds available and shall not affect the ability
16 of any other agency of the Government, a State agency,
17 a local governmental entity or organization, or person to
18 provide any other funds otherwise authorized by law, ex-
19 cept that no person, business concern, or other entity shall
20 receive assistance with respect to any part of a loss as
21 to which such person, business concern, or other entity
22 has received financial assistance under any other program
23 or from insurance or any other source.

24 (d) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded under this
2 section that is made to address an emergency shall
3 be subject to the terms and conditions the Secretary
4 determines are necessary.

5 (2) OVERSIGHT FUNDS.—The Secretary may
6 retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the funds ap-
7 propriated under this section to fund the costs of
8 project management oversight by the Administrator
9 of the Federal Railroad Administration.

10 (3) APPLICATION OF LAW.—The provisions of
11 section 24312 of title 49, United States Code, shall
12 apply to entities receiving a grant under this section.

13 (e) GOVERNMENT SHARE OF COSTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant, contract, or other
15 agreement for a capital project under this section
16 shall be for not more than 80 percent of the project
17 cost, as determined by the Secretary. The non-Fed-
18 eral share of the project cost shall be provided in
19 cash, equipment, or supplies.

20 (2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive, in
21 whole or in part, the non-Federal share.

22 (f) LIMITATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Project costs under this sec-
24 tion shall be limited to the scope of damage caused
25 by the respective emergency.

1 (2) DETERMINATION.—In the case of a project
2 that included damage preexisting the respective
3 emergency, the Administrator shall make a deter-
4 mination on the amount or percentage of the dam-
5 ages preexisting such emergency.

6 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following defi-
7 nitions shall apply:

8 (1) EMERGENCY.—The term “emergency”—

9 (A) has the meaning given such term in
10 section 5324 of title 49, United States Code;
11 and

12 (B) includes a wildfire.

13 (2) SHORT LINE RAILROAD.—The term “short
14 line railroad” means a Class II railroad or a Class
15 III railroad as such terms are defined by the Sur-
16 face Transportation Board.

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