

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7199

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reinstate pre-pandemic in-office work policies at the Department of the Interior in order to receive certain supplemental emergency relief funds, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2022

Mr. BURGESS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Natural Resources

---

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reinstate pre-pandemic in-office work policies at the Department of the Interior in order to receive certain supplemental emergency relief funds, 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. LIMITATION ON DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**  
4                       **FUNDS UNTIL PRE-PANDEMIC WORK POLI-**  
5                       **CIES REINSTATED.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the unobligated COVID—  
7       19 relief funds made available to the Secretary may be  
8       used until on or after the date that the Secretary rein-

1 states the telework policies, practices, and levels of  
2 telework as in effect at the Department of the Interior  
3 on December 31, 2019.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date  
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
6 to Congress a plan for opening the offices of the Depart-  
7 ment of the Interior for in-office work in a manner con-  
8 sistent with the policies, practices, and levels of telework  
9 as in effect on December 31, 2019.

10 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) COVID–19 RELIEF FUNDS.—The term  
12 “COVID–19 relief funds” means any funds made  
13 available to the Secretary in—

14 (A) the Coronavirus Preparedness and Re-  
15 sponse Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020  
16 (Public Law 116–123);

17 (B) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021  
18 (Public Law 117–2); or

19 (C) any COVID–19 supplemental emer-  
20 gency appropriations measure enacted into law  
21 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

22 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
23 the Secretary of the Interior.

1           (3) TELEWORK.—The term “telework” has the  
2           meaning given such term in section 6501 of title 5,  
3           United States Code, and includes remote work.

○