

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8526

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish an Office of Disaster Recovery, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish an Office of Disaster Recovery, 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 “Office of Disaster Re-
5 covery Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISASTER RECOVERY OFFICE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Works and
3 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et
4 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 508. DISASTER RECOVERY OFFICE.**

6 “(a) DISASTER RECOVERY OFFICE.—The Secretary
7 shall establish an Office of Disaster Recovery to direct and
8 implement the Economic Development Administration’s
9 post-disaster economic recovery responsibilities pursuant
10 to sections 209(c)(2) and (e) and 703, economic recovery
11 support function activities as directed under the National
12 Disaster Recovery Framework, and as necessary to admin-
13 ister disaster appropriations made available for such pur-
14 poses.

15 “(b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—

16 “(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary is author-
17 ized to appoint such temporary personnel as may be
18 necessary to implement post-disaster economic recov-
19 ery responsibilities, without regard to the provisions
20 of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United
21 States Code, governing appointments in the competi-
22 tive service and compensation of personnel.

23 “(2) CONVERSION OF EMPLOYEES.—Notwith-
24 standing chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code,
25 or any other provision of law relating to the exam-
26 ination, certification, and appointment of individuals

1 in the competitive service, the Secretary is author-
2 ized to convert a temporary employee appointed
3 under this subsection to a permanent appointment
4 in the competitive service in the Economic Develop-
5 ment Administration under merit promotion proce-
6 dures if—

7 “(A) the employee has served continuously
8 for at least 2 years under one or more appoint-
9 ments under this subsection; and

10 “(B) the employee’s performance has been
11 at an acceptable level of performance through-
12 out the period or periods referred to in sub-
13 paragraph (A).

14 “(3) COMPENSATION.—An individual converted
15 under this subsection shall become a career-condi-
16 tional employee, unless the employee has already
17 completed the service requirements for career ten-
18 ure.”.

19 (b) GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.—Section
20 209 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act
21 of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149) is amended by adding at the
22 end the following:

23 “(f) FEDERAL SHARE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY.—
24 In the case of a grant provided under this section for a
25 project for economic recovery in response to a major dis-

1 aster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford
2 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
3 5121 et seq.), the Secretary shall increase the Federal
4 share to 100 percent of the cost of the project.”.

5 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DIS-
6 ASTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.—Section 703
7 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of
8 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3233) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

10 “(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR FEDERAL SHARE OF DIS-
11 ASTER RECOVERY.—The Federal share of the cost of a
12 project for economic recovery in response to a major dis-
13 aster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford
14 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
15 5121 et seq.) funded with amounts made available under
16 subsection (a) shall be 100 percent.”.

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