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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to codify and amend certain grant programs under which the Secretary of Transportation may issue grants for use in the provision of passenger ferry services, and for other purposes.

Ms. RANDALL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to codify and amend certain grant programs under which the Secretary of Transportation may issue grants for use in the provision of passenger ferry services, 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 “Federal Enhancement
3 and Revitalization of Reliable Infrastructure for Essential
4 Seaways Act” or the “FERRIES Act”.

5 **TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS**

6 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES**

7 **GRANT PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) CONSTRUCTION OF FERRY BOATS AND FERRY
9 TERMINAL FACILITIES.—Section 147(h) of title 23,
10 United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs
11 (1) through (5) and inserting the following:

12 “(1) \$160,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

13 “(2) \$162,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

14 “(3) \$164,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

15 “(4) \$166,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

16 “(5) \$168,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.”.

17 (b) URBAN PASSENGER FERRY GRANT PROGRAM.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5307(h) of title 49,
19 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
20 end the following new paragraph:

21 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
22 addition to funds made available under section 5338
23 to carry out this section, there is authorized to be
24 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sub-
25 section \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
26 through 2031.”.

1 (2) APPORTIONMENTS.—Section 5336(h)(1) of
2 title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking
3 “\$30,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

4 (c) FERRY FLEET MODERNIZATION AND SHIPYARD
5 JOB CREATION GRANT PROGRAM.—

6 (1) AMENDMENTS TO IJA ELECTRIC OR LOW-
7 EMITTING FERRY PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 71102
8 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (23
9 U.S.C. 147 note) is amended—

10 (A) by striking the section heading and in-
11 serting “**FERRY FLEET MODERNIZATION**
12 **AND SHIPYARD JOB CREATION GRANT**
13 **PROGRAM**”;

14 (B) in subsection (a)—

15 (i) by striking paragraph (3);

16 (ii) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
17 paragraph (3); and

18 (iii) by inserting after paragraph (1)
19 following new paragraph:

20 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
21 tity’ means a recipient or designated recipient eligi-
22 ble for a grant under section 5307 or 5311.”;

23 (C) in subsection (b)—

24 (i) by striking “a pilot program to
25 provide grants” and inserting “a grant

1 program under which the Secretary may
2 issues grants to a covered entity”;

3 (ii) by striking “of or” and inserting
4 “of, or”; and

5 (iii) by striking “from existing” and
6 inserting “from, existing”;

7 (D) in subsection (c)—

8 (i) by striking “pilot program” and
9 inserting “grant program”;

10 (ii) by striking “ensure that” and in-
11 sserting “ensure that, to the extent prac-
12 ticable”;

13 (iii) in paragraph (1), by striking
14 “shall”; and

15 (iv) in paragraph (2), by striking
16 “shall”; and

17 (E) in subsection (d) by striking
18 “\$50,000,000” and all that follows through the
19 period at the end and inserting “\$140,000,000
20 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

21 (2) CODIFICATION.—Section 71102 of the In-
22 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C.
23 147 note), as amended, is transferred to appear as
24 section 5313 of title 49, United States Code.

1 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
2 chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
4 tion 5312 the following:

“5313. Ferry fleet modernization and shipyard job creation grant program.”.

5 (d) RURAL FERRY GRANT PROGRAM.—

6 (1) AMENDMENTS TO IJJA FERRY SERVICE
7 GRANTS.—Section 71103 of the Infrastructure In-
8 vestment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 147 note) is
9 amended—

10 (A) in subsection (a)—

11 (i) in paragraph (2)(B)—

12 (I) by striking the period at the
13 end and inserting “; or”;

14 (II) by striking “served not” and
15 inserting the following: “served—
16 “(i) not”; and

17 (III) by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(ii) not less than 2 rural areas with-
20 out regard to the distance between such
21 areas.”; and

22 (ii) by striking paragraph (4);

23 (B) in subsection (b) by striking “establish
24 a program to” and all that follows through the
25 period at the end and inserting “maintain a

1 program under which the Secretary may pro-
2 vide competitive grants to States for the provi-
3 sion of a basic essential ferry service in rural
4 areas.”;

5 (C) in subsection (e) by striking “under
6 section 5336 or 5337 of title 49, United States
7 Code,” and inserting “under section 5336
8 (other than subsection (h)(1) of such section)
9 or 5337”;

10 (D) in subsection (f)—

11 (i) by striking the subsection heading
12 and inserting “AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-
13 PRIATIONS”; and

14 (ii) by striking “\$200,000,000” and
15 all that follows through the period at the
16 end and inserting “\$300,000,000 for each
17 fiscal years 2027 through 2031, of which
18 \$100,000,000 shall be derived from the
19 Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass
20 Transit Account).”;

21 (E) by redesignating subsections (f) and
22 (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

23 (F) by inserting after subsection (e) the
24 following:

1 “(f) PROPORTION OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the
2 program under this section, the Secretary shall ensure
3 that not less than 80 percent of the funds made available
4 to eligible services under this section are provided to eligi-
5 ble services described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(i).”.

6 (2) CODIFICATION.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 of title 49,
8 United States Code, is amended by inserting
9 after section 5307 the following new section:

10 **“§ 5308. Ferry service for rural communities pro-**
11 **gram”.**

12 (B) TRANSFER.—Subsections (a) through
13 (f) of section 71103 of the Infrastructure In-
14 vestment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 147 note),
15 as amended by paragraph (1), are transferred
16 to appear as subsections (a) through (f) of sec-
17 tion 5308 of title 49, United States Code, as in-
18 serted by this paragraph.

19 (C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis
20 for chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code,
21 is amended by inserting after the item relating
22 to section 5307 the following:

“5308. Ferry service for rural communities program.”.

1 **TITLE II—APPROPRIATIONS**

2 That the following sums are appropriated, out of any
3 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and
4 for other purposes, namely:

5

6 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

7 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

8 HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

9 For an additional amount for “Highway Infrastruc-
10 ture Programs”, \$500,000,000, to remain available until
11 expended, to carry out the construction of ferry boats and
12 ferry terminal facilities program under section 147 of title
13 23, United States Code: *Provided*, That \$100,000,000, to
14 remain available until expended, shall be made available
15 for fiscal year 2027, \$100,000,000, to remain available
16 until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year
17 2028, \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended,
18 shall be made available for fiscal year 2029,
19 \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be
20 made available for fiscal year 2030, and \$100,000,000,
21 to remain available until expended, shall be made available
22 for fiscal year 2031: *Provided further*, That amounts made
23 available under this heading in this Act shall be adminis-
24 tered as if made available under section 147 of title 23,
25 United States Code: *Provided further*, That the amounts

1 made available under this heading in this Act shall be de-
2 rived from the general fund of the Treasury, shall be in
3 addition to any other amounts made available for such
4 purpose, and shall not affect the distribution or amount
5 of funds provided in any Act making annual appropria-
6 tions: *Provided further*, That up to 1.5 percent of the
7 amounts made available under this heading in this Act in
8 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 shall be for oper-
9 ations and administrations of the Federal Highway Ad-
10 ministration: *Provided further*, That the amounts made
11 available under this heading in this Act shall not be sub-
12 ject to any limitation on obligations for Federal-aid high-
13 ways or highway safety construction programs set forth
14 in any Act making annual appropriations.

15 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

16 TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

17 For an additional amount for “Transit Infrastructure
18 Grants”, \$1,250,000,000, to remain available until ex-
19 pended, to carry out the passenger ferry grants program
20 under section 5307(h) of title 49, United States Code:
21 *Provided*, That \$250,000,000, to remain available until
22 expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2027,
23 \$250,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be
24 made available for fiscal year 2028, \$250,000,000, to re-
25 main available until expended, shall be made available for

1 fiscal year 2029, \$250,000,000, to remain available until
2 expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2030, and
3 \$250,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be
4 made available for fiscal year 2031: *Provided further*, That
5 the amounts made available under this heading in this Act
6 shall be derived from the general fund of the Treasury,
7 shall be in addition to any other amounts made available
8 for such purpose, and shall not affect the distribution of
9 funds provided in any Act making annual appropriations:
10 *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under
11 this heading in this Act shall not be subject to any limita-
12 tion on obligations for the Federal Public Transportation
13 Assistance Program set forth in any Act making annual
14 appropriations: *Provided further*, That not more than two
15 percent of the amounts made available under this heading
16 in this Act shall be available for administrative and over-
17 sight expenses as authorized under section 5334 and sec-
18 tion 5338(c) of title 49, United States Code, and shall be
19 in addition to any other appropriations for such purpose.

20 FERRY SERVICE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

21 For competitive grants to States for eligible essential
22 ferry service as authorized under section 5308 of title 49,
23 United States Code, \$1,250,000,000, to remain available
24 until expended: *Provided*, That \$250,000,000, to remain
25 available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal

1 year 2027, \$250,000,000, to remain available until ex-
2 pended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2028,
3 \$250,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be
4 made available for fiscal year 2029, \$250,000,000, to re-
5 main available until expended, shall be made available for
6 fiscal year 2030, and \$250,000,000, to remain available
7 until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year
8 2031: *Provided further*, That amounts made available
9 under this heading in this Act shall be derived from the
10 general fund of the Treasury: *Provided further*, That
11 amounts made available under this heading in this Act
12 shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for
13 the Federal Public Transportation Assistance Program set
14 forth in any Act making annual appropriations: *Provided*
15 *further*, That not more than two percent of the amounts
16 made available under this heading in this Act shall be
17 available for administrative and oversight expenses as au-
18 thorized under section 5334 and section 5338(c) of title
19 49, United States Code, and shall be in addition to any
20 other appropriations for such purpose.

21 FERRY FLEET MODERNIZATION AND SHIPYARD JOB

22 CREATION GRANT PROGRAM

23 For competitive grants for the Ferry Fleet Mod-
24 ernization and Shipyard Job Creation Grant Program as
25 authorized under section 5313 of title 49, United States

1 Code, \$500,000,000, to remain available until expended:
2 *Provided*, That \$100,000,000, to remain available until
3 expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2027,
4 \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be
5 made available for fiscal year 2028, \$100,000,000, to re-
6 main available until expended, shall be made available for
7 fiscal year 2029, \$100,000,000, to remain available until
8 expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2030, and
9 \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be
10 made available for fiscal year 2031: *Provided further*, That
11 amounts made available under this heading in this Act
12 shall be derived from the general fund of the Treasury:
13 *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under
14 this heading in this Act shall not be subject to any limita-
15 tion on obligations for transit programs set forth in any
16 Act making annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That
17 not more than two percent of the amounts made available
18 under this heading in this Act shall be available for admin-
19 istrative and oversight expenses as authorized under sec-
20 tion 5334 and section 5338(c) of title 49, United States
21 Code, and shall be in addition to any other appropriations
22 for such purpose.