

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3224

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to owners of cargo vessels being rerouted from the western seaboard of the United States through the Panama Canal, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to owners of cargo vessels being rerouted from the western seaboard of the United States through the Panama Canal, 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 “Supply Chain Emer-
5 gency Response Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR REROUT-**
2 **ING CARGO VESSELS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation,
4 acting through the Administrator of the Maritime Admin-
5 istration, shall establish a program to provide grants to
6 eligible entities to cover toll costs associated with rerouting
7 cargo vessels from ports along the western seaboard of the
8 United States through the Panama Canal to ports along
9 the Gulf of Mexico and the eastern seaboard of the United
10 States.

11 (b) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant provided under this
12 section shall be in an amount equal to the cost of the toll
13 fees at the Panama Canal.

14 (c) DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.—To receive a
15 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit
16 to the Administrator documentation that such eligible en-
17 tity—

18 (1) had an agreement to dock a cargo vessel at
19 a port along the western seaboard of the United
20 States and intends to reroute such cargo vessel from
21 such port through the Panama Canal to a port along
22 the Gulf of Mexico or the eastern seaboard of the
23 United States; and

24 (2) has an agreement to dock such cargo vessel
25 at such port along the Gulf of Mexico or the eastern
26 seaboard of the United States.

1 (d) ENTITIES INELIGIBLE FOR GRANT.—Any indi-
2 vidual who is a member of the Chinese Communist Party
3 or any company owned, in whole or in part, by the Chinese
4 Communist Party may not receive a grant under this sec-
5 tion.

6 (e) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term “eligible entity” means the owner of a cargo
8 vessel who intends to reroute such cargo vessel from a port
9 along the western seaboard of the United States through
10 the Panama Canal to a destination located in the United
11 States.

12 (f) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any other provision
13 of law, not more than \$125,000,000 of the total amount
14 of unobligated funds made available under the CARES
15 Act (Public Law 116–136) may be used to carry out this
16 section.

17 **SEC. 3. USE OF COVID RELIEF FUNDS TO OFFSET SHIPPING**
18 **COSTS.**

19 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State
20 or unit of local government may use any unobligated funds
21 made available to such State or unit of local government
22 under the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) for costs
23 related to rerouting cargo vessels from the western sea-
24 board of the United States to the eastern seaboard of the
25 United States.

1 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF PORT FEES.**

2 Any marine terminal operator (as defined in section
3 40102 of title 46, United States Code) that is located
4 along the western seaboard of the United States, and sub-
5 ject to the jurisdiction of the United States, may not col-
6 lect port fees from a recipient of a grant under section
7 2 that has rerouted a cargo vessel from such marine ter-
8 minal operator due to the inability of such marine terminal
9 operator to receive such vessel.

10 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF CARGO VESSEL.**

11 In this Act, the term “cargo vessel” has the meaning
12 given such term in section 199.30 of title 46, Code of Fed-
13 eral Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment
14 of this Act).

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