

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 23, United States Code, to increase flexibility for emergency relief projects, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend title 23, United States Code, to increase flexibility  
for emergency relief projects, 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 “Transportation Emer-  
5 gency Relief Extension Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY EMERGENCY RELIEF.**

7 Section 125 of title 23, United States Code, is  
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(h) IMPOSITION OF DEADLINE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
2           provision of law, the Secretary may not require any  
3           project funded under this section to advance to the  
4           construction obligation stage before the date that is  
5           the last day of the sixth fiscal year after the later  
6           of—

7                   “(A) the date on which the Governor de-  
8                   clared the emergency, as described in subsection  
9                   (d)(1)(A); and

10                   “(B) the date on which the President de-  
11                   clared the emergency to be a major disaster, as  
12                   described in that subsection.

13           “(2) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—If the Sec-  
14           retary imposes a deadline for advancement to the  
15           construction obligation stage pursuant to paragraph  
16           (1), the Secretary may—

17                   “(A) on the request of the Governor of the  
18                   State, issue an extension of not more than 1  
19                   year to complete the advancement; and

20                   “(B) issue additional extensions after the  
21                   expiration of any extension, if the Secretary de-  
22                   termines the Governor of the State has provided  
23                   suitable justification to warrant such an exten-  
24                   sion.

1       “(i) EMERGENCY RELIEF MANUALS.—Not later than  
2 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection and  
3 every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

4           “(1) update the Emergency Relief Manual of  
5 the Federal Highway Administration;

6           “(2) provide the updated Manual to each State  
7 department of transportation; and

8           “(3) make the updated Manual publicly avail-  
9 able on a website of the Secretary.”.