

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7496

To amend title 23, United States Code, to improve responses to emergencies,  
and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. COSTA) introduced the  
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure

---

## A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to improve responses  
to emergencies, 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 “Modernizing Oper-  
5 ations for Vehicles in Emergencies Act” or the “MOVE  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODERNIZING AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN VEHICLE**  
2 **PERMITS DURING EMERGENCIES AND CER-**  
3 **TAIN OTHER CONDITIONS.**

4 Section 127(i) of title 23, United States Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 “(i) SPECIAL PERMITS DURING EMERGENCIES AND  
7 CERTAIN OTHER CONDITIONS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
9 provision of this section, a State may issue special  
10 permits to overweight vehicles and loads that can  
11 easily be dismantled or divided if the conditions of  
12 either paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) are met.

13 “(2) PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION.—The con-  
14 ditions of this paragraph are—

15 “(A) the President has declared an emer-  
16 gency or a major disaster pursuant to section  
17 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster  
18 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
19 U.S.C. 5170; 5191);

20 “(B) the permits described in paragraph  
21 (1) are issued in accordance with State law;

22 “(C) the permits are issued exclusively to  
23 vehicles and loads that are delivering relief sup-  
24 plies or supplies that facilitate recovery or re-  
25 turn to normalcy; and

1           “(D) a permit shall expire not later than  
2           120 days after the date of the declaration de-  
3           scribed in subparagraph (A), unless the permit  
4           expiration date is extended by the Governor of  
5           the State issuing such permit.

6           “(3) GOVERNOR DECLARATION.—The condi-  
7           tions of this paragraph are the following:

8           “(A) A Governor of a State has declared  
9           that—

10           “(i) emergency or other unusual con-  
11           ditions, including weather, fire, earth-  
12           quake, disease, or natural emergencies and  
13           including financial or other non-natural  
14           emergencies, are having a negative impact  
15           on commerce in the State; or

16           “(ii) supply chain function is substan-  
17           tially impaired in the State, either in terms  
18           of slow overall movement, freight traffic  
19           congestion, or otherwise.

20           “(B) The permits described in paragraph  
21           (1) are issued in accordance with State law.

22           “(C) The authority to issue a permit de-  
23           scribed in paragraph (1) shall expire 270 days  
24           after a Governor makes a declaration pursuant  
25           to subparagraph (A), unless the expiration date

1 is extended by the Governor, which may be for  
2 a period of not more than 90 days.

3 “(D) A permit issued pursuant to this  
4 paragraph shall expire on the date on which the  
5 period of authority to issue a permit under sub-  
6 paragraph (C) ends, including any extension of  
7 such period of authority.”.

○