

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5620

To waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. GUEST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster.

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 “First Responders Pass-
5 port Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. PASSPORTS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act of June 4,
3 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214; 41 Stat. 750; commonly referred
4 to as the “Passport Act of 1920”), is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
6 section (d); and

7 (2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be collected and paid
10 into the Treasury of the United States a fee, prescribed
11 by the Secretary of State by regulation, for the filing of
12 each application for a passport (including the cost of pass-
13 port issuance and use) and a fee, prescribed by the Sec-
14 retary of State by regulation, for executing each such ap-
15 plication, except that the Secretary of State may by regu-
16 lation authorize State officials or the United States Postal
17 Service to collect and retain the execution fee for each ap-
18 plication for a passport accepted by such officials or by
19 that Service. Such fees shall not be refundable, except as
20 the Secretary may by regulation prescribe.

21 “(b) EXCEPTION FOR PASSPORT FEE.—Notwith-
22 standing subsection (a), no passport fee shall be collected
23 from any of the following:

24 “(1) An officer or employee of the United
25 States proceeding abroad in the discharge of official
26 duties, or from members of his immediate family.

1 “(2) An American seaman who requires a pass-
2 port in connection with his duties aboard an Amer-
3 ican flag-vessel.

4 “(3) A widow, widower, child, parent, grand-
5 parent, brother, or sister of a deceased member of
6 the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the
7 grave of such member or to attend a funeral or me-
8 morial service for such member.

9 “(4) An individual or individuals abroad, re-
10 turning to the United States, when the Secretary de-
11 termines that foregoing the collection of such fee is
12 justified for humanitarian reasons or for law en-
13 forcement purposes.

14 “(5) At the discretion of the Secretary, an indi-
15 vidual, including a volunteer, who—

16 “(A) is operating under a contract, grant,
17 or cooperative agreement with the United
18 States Government to proceed abroad to a for-
19 eign country to participate in search, rescue,
20 and other related disaster relief operations
21 within such foreign country within the first 7
22 days after a natural disaster affecting such for-
23 eign country; and

24 “(B) is required pursuant to such contract,
25 grant, or cooperative agreement to be available

1 to so proceed abroad immediately upon notice
2 from the United States Government.

3 “(c) EXCEPTION FOR EXECUTION FEE.—No execu-
4 tion fee shall be collected for an application made before
5 a Federal official by a person excused from payment of
6 the passport fee under this section.”.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the end
8 of the first full fiscal year after the date of the enactment
9 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the
10 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
11 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
12 ate a report on the number of waivers of fees for the exe-
13 cution and issuance of passports to first responders under
14 section 1 of the Act of June 4, 1920, as amended by sub-
15 section (a) of this section, for such fiscal year.

16 **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

17 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
18 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
19 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
20 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
21 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
22 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
23 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
24 vote on passage.

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