



Congress: Enact H.R. 6140

FAST PASS Legislation to Expedite Critical Cargo During An Emergency

“The FAST PASS Act will help our supply chains respond faster to emergencies like hurricanes and pandemics.”

– Rep. Ezell (R-MS)

“I am pleased to have co-authored the FAST PASS Act to ensure the U.S. Department of Transportation can expedite delivery of critical cargo at our nation’s ports when American jobs and, even more importantly, lives are on the line.”

–Rep. Garamendi (D-CA)

What would H.R. 6140 do?

H.R. 6140, the Facilitating Access to Swiftly Transport Goods during a Publicly Announced State of Emergency Situation (FAST PASS) Act directs the Secretary of Transportation to initiate a study to examine efforts to expedite the movement of critical cargo through ports and across all modes of transportation. This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Reps. Mike Ezell (R-MS) and John Garamendi (D-CA).

Why do we need FAST PASS?

Throughout the pandemic, disruptive transportation delays limited movement of medical products, restricting the supply chain’s ability to support hospitals and other providers. Currently, there is no process in place to temporarily expedite critical cargo during an emergency. Future delays of medical products will have negative consequences for patients and public health.

Key provisions of H.R. 6140:

- Creates a “Fast Pass” process to expedite medical and other critical supplies throughout the nation’s transportation system in declared emergencies.
- Evaluates methodologies, practices, and processes for expediting cargo during a Federal Emergency.
- Examines processes to mitigate impact on the movement of other cargo that is not deemed critical during an emergency.
- The act will not interfere with or supersede port labor agreements.
- Includes recommendations for which cargo is critical and when it needs to be expedited.
- The agency has the option of establishing one or more voluntary pilot programs to test the effectiveness of the recommended practices included in the report.
- The pilot program may not allow for the purchase of any fully automated cargo handling equipment and must not result in a net loss of jobs within a port.

What is the status of the legislation?

- On March 20, 2024, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee passed the bill with strong bipartisan support. It now awaits a vote in the full House of Representatives.

HIDA Urges Congress To Enact H.R. 6140!

To co-sponsor the House legislation, contact Allie Estorge Cameron with Rep. Ezell or Iain Hart with Rep. Garamendi.