

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 760

To make certain repairs, replacements, and restorations of private roads and bridges eligible for reimbursement under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To make certain repairs, replacements, and restorations of private roads and bridges eligible for reimbursement under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 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 “Restoring Access to
5 Mountain Homes Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT FOR REPAIR, REPLACEMENT,**
2 **AND RESTORATION WORK ON PRIVATE**
3 **ROADS AND BRIDGES IMPACTED BY TROP-**
4 **ICAL STORM HELENE.**

5 (a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR REIMBURSEMENT.**—Notwith-
6 standing any provision of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
7 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et
8 seq.) or the regulations governing the public assistance
9 program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
10 under such Act, the State, Indian Tribal, and local govern-
11 ments in North Carolina covered under major disaster
12 declaration FEMA-4827-DR-NC (relating to Tropical
13 Storm Helene) shall be eligible for reimbursement for the
14 cost of repairs, replacements, or restoration to private
15 roads and bridges, without regard to pre-existing condi-
16 tion, under section 428 of such Act that—

17 (1) are used as the sole means of access to pri-
18 mary residences or essential community services;

19 (2) are significantly damaged or destroyed as a
20 direct result of Tropical Storm Helene as identified
21 in FEMA-4827-DR-NC; and

22 (3) does not duplicate work that has already
23 been completed.

24 (b) **CONDITIONS OF REIMBURSEMENT.**—Reimburse-
25 ment under this section shall be subject to the following
26 conditions:

1 (1) Private roads or bridges shall be inspected
2 by appropriate State, Indian Tribal, or local govern-
3 ment officials or their designees to verify the scope,
4 need, and cost-effectiveness of any mitigation meas-
5 ures for the proposed repair, replacement, or res-
6 toration.

7 (2) The State, Indian Tribal, or local govern-
8 ments requesting assistance shall ensure that the
9 private roads or bridges being repaired, replaced, or
10 restored remain open for disaster recovery activities
11 for the duration of the repair, replacement, or res-
12 toration process.

13 (3) The State or Indian Tribal governments
14 shall be responsible for documenting all costs associ-
15 ated with repairs, replacements, or restorations with-
16 in their jurisdiction in accordance with Federal
17 Emergency Management Agency policy.

18 (4) The State, Indian Tribal, or local govern-
19 ment applying for public assistance funding shall ob-
20 tain authority or permission to perform the work to
21 permanently repair, replace, or restore the private
22 roads and bridges.

23 (5) The State, Indian Tribal, or local govern-
24 ment applying for public assistance funding shall en-
25 sure the work under this section is performed in

1 compliance with all applicable State and Federal
2 regulations and requirements that pertain to work
3 that is permanent in nature.

4 (c) DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual or household
6 that has received assistance prior to the date of en-
7 actment of this section pursuant to section 408 of
8 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
9 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) for the pur-
10 poses of repairing a private road or bridge eligible
11 under this section may proceed with such repairs or
12 return any such assistance to have such repair eligi-
13 ble pursuant to this section.

14 (2) CALCULATION.—In the event the individual
15 or household chooses to proceed with such repairs
16 utilizing assistance provided pursuant to section 408
17 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
18 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) for a private
19 road or bridge, such assistance shall not be counted
20 against the maximum amount of assistance for such
21 individual or household under such section.

22 (d) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—In determining eligible costs,
23 the Administrator shall base such determinations on prop-
24 erly conducted and certified cost estimates prepared by
25 professionally licensed engineers (mutually agreed upon by

1 the Administrator and the applicant). Once certified by
2 a professionally licensed engineer and accepted by the Ad-
3 ministrator, the estimates on which grants made pursuant
4 to this section are based shall be presumed to be reason-
5 able and eligible costs, as long as there is no evidence of
6 fraud.

