



H.R. 3311 - To authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and for other purposes

Floor Situation

H.R. 3311 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced on August 2, 2007 by Representative James Oberstar (D-MN). The bill was ordered to be reported from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

On August 3, 2007, the House considered and passed the bill by a recorded vote of 421-0 ([Roll No. 819](#)). The Senate received the bill on August 3, 2007, and passed it, with an amendment, by unanimous consent. The House will now act on the Senate-passed language.

H.R. 3311 is expected to be considered on the House floor on August 4, 2007.

Summary

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a project for the repair and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 Bridge located in Minneapolis, MN, which collapsed on August 1, 2007.

The Federal share of this project will be 100%. The bill authorizes \$250 million for the reconstruction effort.

The bill waives the \$100 million limitation for repairs occurring due to any one specific natural disaster for highways and bridges.

H.R. 3311 makes up to \$5 million of the funds made available for fiscal year 2007 for Federal Transit Administration Discretionary Programs, Bus and Bus Facilities account, for operating expenses of the Minnesota State department of transportation for costs of maintenance and operation which are provided by the Metropolitan Council as a temporary substitute for highway traffic service following the collapse of the Interstate I-35W Bridge until highway traffic service is restored on the bridge.

**Note: The above paragraph is the amended language which the Senate passed on August 3, 2007. The House-passed version directed the reimbursement to the Minnesota State department of transportation to come from funds made available through this Act.*

Background

On August 1, 2007, the Interstate-35W bridge in Minneapolis, MN, collapsed during rush hour traffic. This bridge is the most traveled bridge in the State of Minnesota.

“We talked about the fact that the bridge collapsed, and that we in the federal government must respond and respond robustly to help the people there not only recover, but to make sure that lifeline of activity, that bridge, gets rebuilt as quickly as possible.” President Bush’s statement on August 2, 2007.

Cost

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

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