

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2986

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional punishments for offenders committing fraud aimed at taking advantage of a national emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2001

Mr. BASS (for himself, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GORDON, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. WALSH, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. SCHROCK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional punishments for offenders committing fraud aimed at taking advantage of a national emergency, 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 “American Spirit Fraud
5 Prevention Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN FRAUDS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 18, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“§ 25. Increased penalties for certain frauds**

6 “(a) Whoever is convicted of an offense involving
7 fraud or false statement during an emergency period or
8 a disaster period shall, if the fraud or false statement was
9 intended to exploit popular reaction to the emergency or
10 disaster concerned, be subject to double the imprisonment
11 and double the fine otherwise provided by law.

12 “(b) In this section—

13 “(1) the term ‘emergency period’ means the pe-
14 riod that—

15 “(A) begins on the date on which the
16 President declares a national emergency under
17 the National Emergencies Act; and

18 “(B) ends on the expiration of the 1-year
19 beginning on the date of the termination of the
20 national emergency; and

21 “(2) the term ‘disaster period’ means the 1-year
22 period beginning on the date the President declares
23 an emergency or major disaster under the Robert T.
24 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
25 Act.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
2 at the beginning of chapter 1 of title 18, United States
3 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
4 item:

“25. Increased penalties for certain frauds.”.

