

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2086

AN ACT

To address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Reliable Home Heating
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO EXTEND EMERGENCY DECLARA-**
5 **TIONS FOR PURPOSES OF TEMPORARILY EX-**
6 **EMPTING MOTOR CARRIERS PROVIDING**
7 **EMERGENCY RELIEF FROM CERTAIN SAFETY**
8 **REGULATIONS.**

9 (a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this Act, the term “residen-
10 tial heating fuel” includes—

- 11 (1) heating oil;
12 (2) natural gas; and
13 (3) propane.

14 (b) **AUTHORIZATION.**—If the Governor of a State de-
15 clares a state of emergency caused by a shortage of resi-
16 dential heating fuel and, at the conclusion of the initial
17 30-day emergency period (or a second 30-day emergency
18 period authorized under this subsection), the Governor de-
19 termines that the emergency shortage has not ended, any
20 extension of such state of emergency by the Governor, up
21 to 2 additional 30-day periods, shall be recognized by the
22 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration as a period
23 during which parts 390 through 399 of chapter III of title
24 49, Code of Federal Regulations, shall not apply to any
25 motor carrier or driver operating a commercial motor vehi-

1 cle to provide residential heating fuel in the geographic
2 area so designated as under a state of emergency.

3 (c) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Transportation
4 shall amend section 390.23(a)(1)(ii) of title 49, Code of
5 Federal Regulations, to conform to the provision set forth
6 in subsection (b).

7 (d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
8 may be construed to modify the authority granted to the
9 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s Field Ad-
10 ministrator under section 390.23(a) of title 49, Code of
11 Federal Regulations, to offer temporary exemptions from
12 parts 390 through 399 of such title.

13 **SEC. 3. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION NOTIFI-**
14 **CATION REQUIREMENT.**

15 The Administrator of the Energy Information Ad-
16 ministration, using data compiled from the Administra-
17 tion’s Weekly Petroleum Status Reports, shall notify the
18 Governor of each State in a Petroleum Administration for
19 Defense District if the inventory of residential heating fuel
20 within such district has been below the most recent 5-year
21 average for more than 3 consecutive weeks.

22 **SEC. 4. REVIEW.**

23 Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall conduct
25 a study of, and transmit to the Committee on Commerce,

1 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
2 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
3 of Representatives, a report on the impacts of safety from
4 the extensions issued by Governors according to this Act.
5 In conducting the study, the Secretary shall review, at a
6 minimum—

7 (1) the safety implications of extending exemp-
8 tions; and

9 (2) a review of the exemption process to ensure
10 clarity and efficiency during emergencies.

Passed the Senate May 21, 2014.

Attest:

Secretary.

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