

### § 124. Advances to States

If the Secretary shall determine that it is necessary for the expeditious completion of projects on any of the Federal-aid systems, including the Interstate System, he may advance to any State out of any existing appropriations the Federal share of the cost of construction thereof to enable the State transportation department to make prompt payments for acquisition of rights-of-way, and for the construction as it progresses. The sums so advanced shall be deposited in a special revolving trust fund, by the State official authorized under the laws of the State to receive Federal-aid highway funds, to be disbursed solely upon vouchers approved by the State transportation department for rights-of-way which have been or are being acquired, and for construction which has been actually performed and approved by the Secretary pursuant to this chapter. Upon determination by the Secretary that any part of the funds advanced to any State under the provisions of this section are no longer required, the amount of the advance, which is determined to be in excess of current requirements of the State, shall be repaid upon his demand, and such repayments shall be returned to the credit of the appropriation from which the funds were advanced. Any sum advanced and not repaid on demand shall be deducted from sums due the State for the Federal pro rata share of the cost of construction of Federal-aid projects.

(Pub. L. 85-767, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 901; Pub. L. 95-599, title I, §118, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2699; Pub. L. 105-178, title I, §§1212(a)(2)(A)(i), 1226(c), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 193; Pub. L. 105-206, title IX, §9003(a), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 837.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-178, §1226(c), as added by Pub. L. 105-206, §9003(a), struck out subsec. (a) designation before “If the Secretary” and struck out subsec. (b), which had: authorized advance of 100 per centum of cost of construction where Secretary determined that toll bridge, toll tunnel, or approach thereto meeting section 129 requirements was necessary to complete essential gap in Interstate System; provided repayment schedule; and directed that advance be made from funds apportioned to State for Interstate System and that section 103(e)(4) provisions would not apply.

Pub. L. 105-178, §1212(a)(2)(A)(i), substituted “State transportation department” for “State highway department” in two places.

1978—Pub. L. 95-599 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Title IX of Pub. L. 105-206 effective simultaneously with enactment of Pub. L. 105-178 and to be treated as included in Pub. L. 105-178 at time of enactment, and provisions of Pub. L. 105-178, as in effect on day before July 22, 1998, that are amended by title IX of Pub. L. 105-206 to be treated as not enacted, see section 9016 of Pub. L. 105-206, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

#### ACCELERATION OF PROJECTS

Pub. L. 94-280, title I, §141, May 5, 1976, 90 Stat. 444, as amended by Pub. L. 95-599, title I, §136, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2709, provided that: “Not later than six months after the completion of such project, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress which includes, but is not limited to, a description of the

methods used to reduce the time necessary for the completion of such project, recommendations for applying such methods to other highway projects, and any changes which may be necessary to existing law to permit further reductions in the time necessary to complete highway projects.”

### § 125. Emergency relief

(a) GENERAL ELIGIBILITY.—Subject to this section and section 120, an emergency fund is authorized for expenditure by the Secretary for the repair or reconstruction of highways, roads, and trails, in any part of the United States, including Indian reservations, that the Secretary finds have suffered serious damage as a result of—

(1) natural disaster over a wide area, such as by a flood, hurricane, tidal wave, earthquake, severe storm, or landslide; or

(2) catastrophic failure from any external cause.

(b) RESTRICTION ON ELIGIBILITY.—In no event shall funds be used pursuant to this section for the repair or reconstruction of bridges that have been permanently closed to all vehicular traffic by the State or responsible local official because of imminent danger of collapse due to a structural deficiency or physical deterioration.

(c) FUNDING.—Subject to the following limitations, there are authorized to be appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) such sums as may be necessary to establish the fund authorized by this section and to replenish it on an annual basis:

(1) Not more than \$100,000,000 is authorized to be obligated in any 1 fiscal year commencing after September 30, 1980, to carry out the provisions of this section; except that, if in any fiscal year the total of all obligations under this section is less than the amount authorized to be obligated in such fiscal year, the unobligated balance of such amount shall remain available until expended and shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available to carry out this section each year.

(2) Pending such appropriation or replenishment, the Secretary may obligate from any funds heretofore or hereafter appropriated for obligation in accordance with this title, including existing Federal-aid appropriations, such sums as may be necessary for the immediate prosecution of the work herein authorized. Funds obligated under this paragraph shall be reimbursed from such appropriation or replenishment.

(d) The Secretary may expend funds from the emergency fund herein authorized for the repair or reconstruction of highways on Federal-aid highways in accordance with the provisions of this chapter: *Provided*, That (1) obligations for projects under this section, including those on highways, roads, and trails mentioned in subsection (e) of this section, resulting from a single natural disaster or a single catastrophic failure in a State shall not exceed \$100,000,000, and (2) the total obligations for projects under this section in any fiscal year in the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall not exceed \$20,000,000. Notwithstanding any pro-