

(b) **FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT.**—Subject to subsections (c) and (d), the Secretary may reimburse a State for expenses and costs incurred by the State or a political subdivision of the State and reimburse a public authority for expenses and costs incurred by the public authority for—

- (1) interest payments under an eligible debt financing instrument;
- (2) the retirement of principal of an eligible debt financing instrument;
- (3) the cost of the issuance of an eligible debt financing instrument;
- (4) the cost of insurance for an eligible debt financing instrument; and
- (5) any other cost incidental to the sale of an eligible debt financing instrument (as determined by the Secretary).

(c) **CONDITIONS ON PAYMENT.**—The Secretary may reimburse a State or public authority under subsection (b) with respect to a project funded by an eligible debt financing instrument after the State or public authority has complied with this title with respect to the project to the extent and in the manner that would be required if payment were to be made under section 121.

(d) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of a project payable under this section shall not exceed the Federal share of the cost of the project as determined under section 120.

(e) **STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the eligibility of an eligible debt financing instrument for reimbursement under subsection (b) shall not—

- (1) constitute a commitment, guarantee, or obligation on the part of the United States to provide for payment of principal or interest on the eligible debt financing instrument; or
- (2) create any right of a third party against the United States for payment under the eligible debt financing instrument.

(Pub. L. 85-767, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 900; Pub. L. 95-599, title I, §115(b), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2698; Pub. L. 97-424, title I, §107(f), Jan. 6, 1983, 96 Stat. 2103; Pub. L. 100-17, title I, §133(b)(7), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 171; Pub. L. 104-59, title III, §311(a), Nov. 28, 1995, 109 Stat. 583.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-59 amended section generally, substituting present provisions for provisions which authorized States to use portion of Federal highway payments to retire principal of bonds proceeds of which were used for certain Federal highway projects.

1987—Pub. L. 100-17 inserted “or for substitute highway projects approved under section 103(e)(4) of this title” before “and the retirement” in first sentence.

1983—Pub. L. 97-424 inserted “or for substitute highway projects approved under section 103(e)(4) of this title,” after “highway systems in urban areas,” and “or on highway projects approved under section 103(e)(4) of this title” after “expenditure on such system”.

1978—Pub. L. 95-599 inserted provisions relating to the retirement of bonds the proceeds of which were used for program projects, provisions that section was not to be construed as a commitment on the part of the United States to pay the principal of any such bonds, and provisions prohibiting inclusion of interest and incidental costs of bonds in estimated cost of completion.

PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON BONDS ISSUED PRIOR TO AND AFTER NOVEMBER 6, 1978

Pub. L. 95-599, title I, §115(c), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2698, provided that: “No interest shall be paid under au-

thority of section 122 of title 23, United States Code, on any bonds issued prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 6, 1978], unless such bonds were issued for projects which were under construction on January 1, 1978. Interest on bonds issued in any fiscal year by a State after the date of enactment of this Act may be paid under authority of section 122 of title 23, United States Code, only if (1) such State was eligible to obligate funds of another State under subsection (a) of this section during such fiscal year and (2) the Secretary of Transportation certifies that such eligible State utilized, or will utilize, to the fullest extent possible during such fiscal year its authority to obligate funds under such subsection (a) of this section [amending section 118(b) of this title]. No interest shall be paid under section 122 of title 23, United States Code, on that part of the proceeds of bonds issued after the date of enactment of this Act used to retire or otherwise refinance bonds issued prior to such date.”

§ 123. Relocation of utility facilities

(a) When a State shall pay for the cost of relocation of utility facilities necessitated by the construction of a project on any Federal-aid highway, Federal funds may be used to reimburse the State for such cost in the same proportion as Federal funds are expended on the project. Federal funds shall not be used to reimburse the State under this section when the payment to the utility violates the law of the State or violates a legal contract between the utility and the State. Such reimbursement shall be made only after evidence satisfactory to the Secretary shall have been presented to him substantiating the fact that the State has paid such cost from its own funds with respect to Federal-aid highway projects for which Federal funds are obligated subsequent to April 16, 1958, for work, including relocation of utility facilities.

(b) The term “utility”, for the purposes of this section, shall include publicly, privately, and cooperatively owned utilities.

(c) The term “cost of relocation”, for the purposes of this section, shall include the entire amount paid by such utility properly attributable to such relocation after deducting therefrom any increase in the value of the new facility and any salvage value derived from the old facility.

(Pub. L. 85-767, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 900; Pub. L. 100-17, title I, §133(b)(8), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 171; Pub. L. 112-141, div. A, title I, §1104(c)(3), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 427.)

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-141 substituted “on any Federal-aid highway” for “on any Federal-aid system”.

1987—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-17 substituted “any Federal-aid system,” for “the Federal-aid primary or secondary systems or on the Interstate System, including extensions thereof within urban areas.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-141 effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of this title.

STUDY OF PROCUREMENT PRACTICES AND PROJECT DELIVERY

Pub. L. 105-178, title I, §1213(e), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 201, provided that:

“(1) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study to assess the impact that a utility company’s

failure to relocate its facilities in a timely manner has on the delivery and cost of Federal-aid highway and bridge projects. The study shall also assess the following:

“(A) Methods States use to mitigate such delays, including the use of the courts to compel cooperation.

“(B) The prevalence and use of incentives to utility companies for early completion of utility relocations on Federal-aid transportation project sites and, conversely, penalties assessed on utility companies for utility relocation delays on such projects.

“(C) The extent to which States have used available technologies, such as subsurface utility engineering, early in the design of Federal-aid highway and bridge projects so as to eliminate or reduce the need for or delays due to utility relocations.

“(D) Whether individual States compensate transportation contractors for business costs incurred by the contractors when Federal-aid highway and bridge projects under contract to them are delayed by utility-company-caused delays in utility relocations and any methods used by States in making any such compensation.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act [June 9, 1998], the Comptroller General shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study with any recommendations the Comptroller General determines appropriate as a result of the study.”

[§ 124. Repealed. Pub. L. 112-141, div. A, title I, § 1519(b)(1)(A), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 575]

Section, 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, related to advances to States.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of this title.

§ 125. Emergency relief

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—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 area of the United States, including Indian reservations, that the Secretary finds have suffered serious damage as a result of—

(1) a 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.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF CONSTRUCTION PHASE.**—In this subsection, the term “construction phase” means the phase of physical construction of a highway or bridge facility that is separate from any other identified phases, such as planning, design, or right-of-way phases, in the State transportation improvement program.

(2) **RESTRICTION.**—In no case shall funds be used under this section for the repair or reconstruction of a bridge—

(A) that has 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; or

(B) if a construction phase of a replacement structure is included in the approved Statewide transportation improvement program at the time of an event described in subsection (a).

(c) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the limitations described in paragraph (2), there are authorized to be appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) such sums as are necessary to establish the fund authorized by this section and to replenish that fund on an annual basis.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—The limitations referred to in paragraph (1) are that—

(A) not more than \$100,000,000 is authorized to be obligated in any 1 fiscal year commencing after September 30, 1980, to carry out this section, except that, if for any fiscal year the total of all obligations under this section is less than the amount authorized to be obligated for the fiscal year, the unobligated balance of that amount shall—

(i) remain available until expended; and
(ii) be in addition to amounts otherwise available to carry out this section for each year; and

(B)(i) pending such appropriation or replenishment, the Secretary may obligate from any funds appropriated at any time for obligation in accordance with this title, including existing Federal-aid appropriations, such sums as are necessary for the immediate prosecution of the work herein authorized; and

(ii) funds obligated under this subparagraph shall be reimbursed from the appropriation or replenishment.

(d) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may expend funds from the emergency fund authorized by this section only for the repair or reconstruction of highways on Federal-aid highways in accordance with this chapter, except that—

(A) no funds shall be so expended unless an emergency has been declared by the Governor of the State with concurrence by the Secretary, unless the President has declared the emergency to be a major disaster for the purposes of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) for which concurrence of the Secretary is not required; and

(B) the Secretary has received an application from the State transportation department that includes a comprehensive list of all eligible project sites and repair costs by not later than 2 years after the natural disaster or catastrophic failure.

(2) **COST LIMITATION.**—

(A) **DEFINITION OF COMPARABLE FACILITY.**—In this paragraph, the term “comparable facility” means a facility that meets the current geometric and construction standards required for the types and volume of traffic that the facility will carry over its design life.

(B) **LIMITATION.**—The total cost of a project funded under this section may not