

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3485

To amend title 23, United States Code, to improve highway mobility in rural States for the benefit of all States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2010

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. THUNE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENZI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to improve highway mobility in rural States for the benefit of all States.

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 “Rural Mobility and
5 Access for America Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Federal-aid highways in rural States—

1 (A) serve as a connection for truck and
2 personal traffic between other States and be-
3 tween major metropolitan areas, advancing
4 interstate commerce and mobility and benefit-
5 ting individuals in major metropolitan areas;

6 (B) enable agricultural exports and serve
7 the ethanol production and energy extraction
8 industries of the United States, which are lo-
9 cated largely in rural areas;

10 (C) are a lifeline for remotely located and
11 economically challenged citizens, such as those
12 living on Indian reservations;

13 (D) enable people and business to traverse
14 the large tracts of sparsely populated land that
15 are a major characteristic of many rural States;
16 and

17 (E) provide access to scenic wonders and
18 facilitate tourism;

19 (2) Federal investment in highways in rural
20 States enables enhanced investment to address safe-
21 ty needs on rural routes; and

22 (3) rural States with low population density and
23 extensive highway networks have fewer individuals to
24 support each lane mile of Federal-aid highway than
25 an average State.

1 **SEC. 3. RURAL MOBILITY AND ACCESS FOR AMERICA PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 1 of title
4 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“§ 167. Rural Mobility and Access for America pro-**
7 **gram**

8 “(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL STATE.—In this section,
9 the term ‘rural State’ means any of the 50 States that—

10 “(1) has a population density of 45 or fewer in-
11 dividuals per square mile of land area; or

12 “(2) does not include, within the borders of the
13 State, a plurality of the population of a metropolitan
14 planning area served by a metropolitan planning or-
15 ganization under section 134 that encompasses, in
16 whole or part, an urbanized area with a population
17 of more than 500,000 individuals.

18 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
19 lish and implement a program to benefit the surface trans-
20 portation system in the United States by allocating funds
21 to rural States.

22 “(c) STATE ALLOCATIONS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds authorized to be ap-
24 propriated for the program established under sub-
25 section (b) shall be allocated for each fiscal year
26 among rural States equally.

1 “(2) USE OF DECENNIAL CENSUS DATA.—In
 2 determining the population density of States or the
 3 population of urbanized areas for the purpose of this
 4 section, the Secretary shall use data contained in the
 5 latest decennial census.

6 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds allocated to a State for
 7 the program established under subsection (b)—

8 “(1) may be used for any type of project eligi-
 9 ble under section 133(b); and

10 “(2) are not subject to other provisions of sec-
 11 tion 133.

12 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 14 appropriated to carry out this section from the
 15 Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit
 16 Account), for fiscal year 2010 and each fiscal year
 17 thereafter, the amount determined under paragraph
 18 (2), which shall—

19 “(A) be used to carry out the program
 20 under this section;

21 “(B) remain available until expended;

22 “(C) be available for obligation as if the
 23 funds were apportioned under this chapter; and

24 “(D) not be subject to any limitation on
 25 obligations.

1 “(2) AMOUNT.—The amount referred to in
2 paragraph (1) is, for a fiscal year, 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent of
3 the amount of funds for that fiscal year authorized
4 to be allocated to those metropolitan planning orga-
5 nizations that serve a metropolitan planning area
6 that encompasses, in whole or part, an urbanized
7 area with a population of more than 500,000 indi-
8 viduals.”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
10 chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by
11 adding at the end of the items relating to subchapter I
12 the following:

“167. Rural Mobility and Access for America program.”.

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