

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3701

To establish a competitive grant program to provide capital assistance for the maintenance, replacement, and rehabilitation needs of commuter rail bridges.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 27, 2026

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To establish a competitive grant program to provide capital assistance for the maintenance, replacement, and rehabilitation needs of commuter rail bridges.

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 “Building Rail Infra-
5 structure for a Durable and Growing Economy Act” or
6 the “BRIDGE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMUTER RAIL BRIDGE GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 of title 49, United
3 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5312
4 the following:

5 **“§ 5313. Commuter rail bridge grants**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) COMMUTER RAIL.—The term ‘commuter
8 rail’ shall have the meaning given the term by the
9 Secretary for purposes of reporting to the national
10 transit database under section 5335.

11 “(2) COMMUTER RAIL BRIDGE.—The term
12 ‘commuter rail bridge’—

13 “(A) means a bridge used in commuter rail
14 operations; and

15 “(B) includes a bridge described in sub-
16 paragraph (A) that is also utilized for—

17 “(i) intercity passenger railroad serv-
18 ice;

19 “(ii) other public transportation serv-
20 ice; or

21 “(iii) a roadway.

22 “(3) COVERED GRANT.—The term ‘covered
23 grant’ means a grant awarded under subsection (b).

24 “(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make
25 grants to operators of public transportation systems for

1 capital costs of maintenance, replacement, or rehabilita-
 2 tion of a commuter rail bridge.

3 “(c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

4 “(1) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Except as oth-
 5 erwise provided in this section, a covered grant shall
 6 be subject to the same terms and conditions as a
 7 grant under section 5337.

8 “(2) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Eligible costs for a
 9 project funded by a covered grant shall be limited to
 10 the net capital costs of the public transportation
 11 costs attributable to the project based on projected
 12 use of the commuter rail bridge.

13 “(3) BRIDGE ACCESS AGREEMENT.—Before
 14 executing a grant agreement with the Secretary
 15 under this section, an operator of a public transpor-
 16 tation system seeking a covered grant for a com-
 17 muter rail bridge that is not owned by the operator
 18 shall establish and maintain an agreement with the
 19 owner of the bridge that ensures bridge access by
 20 the operator.

21 “(d) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Secretary shall—

22 “(1) not later than 30 days after the date on
 23 which amounts are made available for obligation
 24 under this section for a full fiscal year, solicit appli-

1 cations for covered grants on a competitive basis;
2 and

3 “(2) award a covered grant based on the solici-
4 tation under paragraph (1) not later than the earlier
5 of—

6 “(A) 75 days after the date on which the
7 solicitation expires; or

8 “(B) the last day of the fiscal year in
9 which the Secretary solicits the applications for
10 covered grants.

11 “(e) CONSIDERATION.—In awarding covered grants,
12 the Secretary shall consider—

13 “(1) the size of the commuter rail system of the
14 applicant;

15 “(2) the amount of funds available to the appli-
16 cant under section 5337;

17 “(3) the age and condition of the commuter rail
18 bridge; and

19 “(4) whether the applicant has identified re-
20 placement of the commuter rail bridge as a priority
21 in the investment prioritization portion of the transit
22 asset management plan developed by the applicant
23 pursuant to part 625 of title 49, Code of Federal
24 Regulations (or successor regulations).”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

2 The table of sections for chapter 53 of title 49, United
3 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
4 ing to section 5312 the following:

“5313. Commuter rail bridge grants.”.

5 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section

6 5338 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following:

8 “(f) COMMUTER RAIL BRIDGE GRANTS.—There are
9 authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 5313
10 \$1,500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
11 2031.”.

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