

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 140

To eliminate a limitation with respect to the collection of tolls for use  
of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, New York.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Mr. NADLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To eliminate a limitation with respect to the collection of  
tolls for use of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, New York.

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. FINDINGS.**

4       Congress finds that—

5           (1) the neighborhoods of Soho, Tribeca, Green-  
6           wich Village, Chinatown, the Lower East Side, and  
7           Lower Manhattan in New York County and Bay  
8           Ridge, Sunset Park, Boerum Hill, Red Hook, Car-  
9           roll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Brooklyn Heights, and  
10           downtown Brooklyn in Kings County, New York,

1 have suffered adversely from the significant increase  
2 in oversize truck and other commercial vehicular  
3 traffic;

4 (2) trucks and commercial vehicles—

5 (A) in order to avoid tolls at other New  
6 York and New Jersey crossings, use the  
7 Verrazano Narrows Bridge route to enter New  
8 York City; and

9 (B) in order to avoid tolls to enter New  
10 York City and avoid the high cost of the one  
11 way toll on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, use  
12 Canal Street and the Holland Tunnel when  
13 heading eastbound out of New York City;

14 (3) the increase in truck traffic has resulted in  
15 extremely dangerous conditions for pedestrians in  
16 the communities referred to in paragraph (1), in-  
17 cluding a high number of fatalities;

18 (4) the resultant increase in oversized commer-  
19 cial vehicles' diesel particulate matter frequently ex-  
20 ceed Federal clean air standards, diminishing the air  
21 quality for residents in such communities;

22 (5) since the use of intelligent transportation  
23 systems such as EZ-Pass at the Verrazano Narrows  
24 Bridge and all facilities owned by the Triborough  
25 Bridge and Tunnel Authority and the Metropolitan

1       Transit Authority has been a great success in reducing  
2       congestion, pollution, and waiting time at toll facilities,  
3       it would not adversely impact air pollution by reinstituting the collection of tolls in both directions  
4       on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge; and

6               (6) the Metropolitan Transit Authority bridges  
7       and tunnels suffer a loss in revenue of \$10,000,000  
8       annually and over \$100,000,000 over the last 10  
9       years since the toll has been one way on the  
10      Verrazano Narrows Bridge.

11 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF LIMITATION.**

12       Section 325 of the Department of Transportation and  
13      Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (109 Stat.  
14      456) is repealed.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16       It is the sense of Congress that the Triborough  
17      Bridge and Tunnel Authority and the Metropolitan Transit  
18      Authority should implement hi-speed EZ-Pass in the  
19      collection of tolls on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge to ensure  
20      air quality standards are met and to reduce congestion  
21      at the Bridge.

