

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4050

To establish a demonstration project to begin correcting structural bridge deficiencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2004

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

A BILL

To establish a demonstration project to begin correcting structural bridge deficiencies.

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 Bridge Safety
5 and Repair Demonstration Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The 589,111 bridges in the United States
9 are a vital link in a seamless and efficient transpor-

1 tation system, connecting communities, States, and
2 regions.

3 (2) Fourteen percent of all bridges that are 20
4 feet or longer are structurally deficient.

5 (3) The cost of correcting all bridge deficiencies
6 in the United States is \$136,000,000,000. Faced
7 with budget cutbacks, many States are struggling to
8 maintain an acceptable schedule of maintenance, re-
9 pair, and replacement of their roads and bridges.

10 (4) To begin correcting structural bridge defi-
11 ciencies, a demonstration program is necessary, be-
12 ginning with a State that has a significant number
13 of structurally deficient bridges.

14 (5) More than 33 percent of the 13,339 bridges
15 in the State of Louisiana are structurally deficient
16 or functionally obsolete; a State with a high percent-
17 age of structurally deficient bridges.

18 **SEC. 3. LOUISIANA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARISH BRIDGE**

19 **REPAIR PROGRAM.**

20 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
21 144 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsection (q) as sub-
23 section (r); and

24 (2) by adding after subsection (p) the following:

25 “(q) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
 2 grants to the Executive Director of the Louisiana
 3 Governor’s Office of Rural Development Parish
 4 Bridge Repair Program to provide for the rehabilita-
 5 tion of the State’s most structurally deficient off-sys-
 6 tem bridges.

7 “(2) REPORT.—The Executive Director of the
 8 Governor’s Office of Rural Development Parish
 9 Bridge Repair Program shall transmit a report to
 10 Congress at the end of each fiscal year describing
 11 the number of bridges and extent of corrected defi-
 12 ciencies made during such year.”.

13 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 15 this Act—

- 16 (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;
- 17 (2) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2006; and
- 18 (3) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

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