

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 603

To improve safety and reduce traffic congestion at grade crossings.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2005

Ms. WATSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To improve safety and reduce traffic congestion at grade  
crossings.

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 shall be known as the “Rail Crossing Safety  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT REGARDING IMPACT ON PUBLIC SAFETY**  
7 **OF TRAIN TRAVEL IN COMMUNITIES WITH-**  
8 **OUT GRADE SEPARATION.**

9 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall,  
10 in consultation with State and local government officials,  
11 conduct a study of the impact of blocked highway-railroad

1 grade crossings on the ability of emergency responders to  
2 perform public safety and security duties.

3 (b) REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF BLOCKED HIGH-  
4 WAY-RAILROAD GRADE CROSSINGS ON EMERGENCY RE-  
5 SPONDERS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-  
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the results  
7 of the study and recommendations for reducing the impact  
8 of blocked crossings on emergency response to the Senate  
9 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
10 and the House of Representatives Committee on Trans-  
11 portation and Infrastructure.

12 **SEC. 3. GRADE CROSSING SEPARATION FUND.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation  
14 shall award grants to States and units of local government  
15 to construct tunnels, bridges and other means of sepa-  
16 rating rail tracks and roads.

17 (b) PRIORITY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under  
19 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to—

20 (A) grade separations that would have the  
21 most impact on improving safety; and

22 (B) rail lines that have a high volume of  
23 goods movement.

24 (2) PRIORITY ADJUSTMENT.—After completion  
25 of the report required under section 2, the Secretary

1 shall take the report's findings and recommenda-  
2 tions into account when determining priorities.

3 (c) REGULATIONS.—In order to carry out this sec-  
4 tion, the Secretary may establish any appropriate policies,  
5 procedures, or requirements.

6 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
7 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated  
8 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
9 2006 through 2010.

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