

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 197

To improve safety and reduce traffic congestion at grade crossings.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 26, 2005

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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 may be cited 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.

○