

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4890

To direct the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to carry out a collaborative research effort to prevent drunk driving injuries and fatalities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2010

Mr. EHLERS (for himself and Mr. SARBANES) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to carry out a collaborative research effort to prevent drunk driving injuries and fatalities, and for other purposes.

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 “Research of Alcohol
5 Detection Systems for Stopping Alcohol-Related Fatalities
6 Everywhere Act of 2010” or the “ROADS SAFE Act of
7 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities represent
4 approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of all highway fatalities in the
5 United States in a given year.

6 (2) In 2008, there were 11,773 alcohol-im-
7 paired driving fatalities.

8 (3) An estimated 9,000 road traffic deaths
9 could be prevented every year if alcohol detection
10 technologies were more widely used to prevent alco-
11 hol-impaired drivers from operating their vehicles.

12 (4) The National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-
13 ministration has partnered with automobile manu-
14 facturers to develop alcohol detection technologies
15 that could be installed in vehicles to prevent drunk
16 driving.

17 (5) Alcohol detection technologies will not be
18 widely accepted by the public unless they are mod-
19 erately priced, absolutely reliable, and set at a level
20 that would not prevent a driver whose blood alcohol
21 content is less than the legal limit from operating a
22 vehicle.

23 **SEC. 3. DRIVER ALCOHOL DETECTION SYSTEM FOR SAFETY**
24 **RESEARCH.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-
26 tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall carry

1 out a collaborative research effort to continue to explore
2 the feasibility and the potential benefits of, and the public
3 policy challenges associated with, more widespread deploy-
4 ment of in-vehicle technology to prevent alcohol-impaired
5 driving.

6 (b) REPORTS.—The Administrator shall submit a re-
7 port annually to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
8 and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on
9 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives—

11 (1) describing progress in carrying out the col-
12 laborative research effort; and

13 (2) including an accounting for the use of Fed-
14 eral funds obligated or expended in carrying out that
15 effort.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

18 (1) ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING.—The term
19 “alcohol-impaired driving” means operation of a
20 motor vehicle (as defined in section 30102(a)(6) of
21 title 49, United States Code) by an individual whose
22 blood alcohol content is at or above the legal limit.

23 (2) LEGAL LIMIT.—The term “legal limit”
24 means a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent
25 or greater (as specified by section 163 of title 23,

1 United States Code) or such other percentage limita-
2 tion as may be established by applicable Federal,
3 State, or local law.

4 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION WITH OTHER LAWS.**

5 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify or
6 otherwise affect any Federal, State, or local government
7 law, civil or criminal, with respect to the operation of a
8 motor vehicle.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
11 priated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the
12 Mass Transit Account) \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal
13 years 2011 through 2015 to carry out the collaborative
14 research effort under section 3(a).

15 (b) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 23.—Funds made
16 available under subsection (a) shall be available for obliga-
17 tion and administered in the same manner as if the funds
18 were apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United
19 States Code, except that the Federal share payable on ac-
20 count of a project or activity carried out using the funds
21 shall be 100 percent.

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