

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5949

To establish a grant program in the Department of Transportation to improve the traffic safety of teen drivers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2010

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

A BILL

To establish a grant program in the Department of Transportation to improve the traffic safety of teen drivers.

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 “Students Taking Ac-
5 tion for Road Safety Act of 2010” or “STARS Act of
6 2010”.

7 **SEC. 2. TEEN DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
9 tation shall establish and implement a teen traffic safety
10 grant program under which the Secretary shall make

1 grants to States to implement a statewide program to im-
2 prove the traffic safety of teen drivers.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to
4 support peer-to-peer education and prevention strategies
5 in schools and communities to increase safety belt use and
6 reduce speeding, impaired and distracted driving, under-
7 age drinking, and other destructive decisions among teen
8 drivers that lead to injuries and fatalities.

9 (c) APPLICATION.—Any State desiring a grant under
10 this section shall submit an application to the Secretary
11 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-
12 mation as the Secretary may require.

13 (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A State may use funds
14 from a grant under this section to implement a statewide
15 program to improve traffic safety of teen drivers, including
16 activities such as—

17 (1) working with student-led groups and advi-
18 sors from schools to plan and implement teen traffic
19 safety programs;

20 (2) providing subgrants to schools throughout
21 the State to support the establishment and expan-
22 sion of student groups focused on teen traffic safety;

23 (3) providing support, training, and technical
24 assistance to establish and expand school and com-
25 munity safety programs for teen drivers;

1 (4) creating statewide or regional Web sites to
2 publicize and circulate information on teen safety
3 programs;

4 (5) conducting outreach and providing edu-
5 cational resources for parents;

6 (6) establishing State or regional advisory coun-
7 cils comprised of teen drivers to provide input and
8 recommendations to the governor and governor's
9 safety representative on issues related to the safety
10 of teen drivers;

11 (7) collaborating with law enforcement;

12 (8) organizing and hosting State and regional
13 conferences for teen drivers;

14 (9) establishing partnerships and promoting co-
15 ordination among community stakeholders, including
16 public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities; and

17 (10) funding a position of coordinator for the
18 teen safety program in the State or region.

19 (e) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant avail-
20 able to a State under this section shall be based on a for-
21 mula administered by the Secretary. In administering the
22 formula, the Secretary shall consider the number of teen
23 drivers in each State, except that no State that applies
24 for a grant under this section shall receive less than
25 \$200,000 annually.

1 (f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds pro-
2 vided under this section shall be used to supplement, not
3 supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available for car-
4 rying out the activities described in this section.

5 (g) SUBALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—An agency of a
6 State that receives a grant under this section may suballo-
7 cate grant funds to one or several nonprofit organizations
8 to carry out the program under this section.

9 (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER AND CLEAR-
10 INGHOUSE.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—From funds
12 provided under subsection (c), the Secretary may use
13 up to \$500,000 to contract with a national, non-
14 profit organization to provide training and technical
15 assistance to State and local officials, student lead-
16 ers, school advisors, and other entities associated
17 with the grant program established in this section.

18 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—The center may use funds
19 for training, communications, publications, con-
20 ferences, meetings and other assistance considered
21 appropriate to develop and sustain a statewide pro-
22 gram to improve traffic safety of teen drivers.

23 (3) CLEARINGHOUSE.—The center may operate
24 a national teen traffic safety clearinghouse to de-
25 velop information and resources for improving the

1 health and safety of teen drivers, disseminate tech-
2 niques and strategies used for successful teen safety
3 programs, and develop and carry out a public aware-
4 ness campaign related to the safety of teen drivers.

5 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated from the Highway Trust
7 Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) to carry out
8 this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011
9 through 2015.

10 **SEC. 3. TEEN DRIVER ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
12 the National Teen Driver Advisory Council which shall be
13 comprised of teen drivers and leaders in teen traffic safety.

14 (b) STRATEGY AND REPORT.—

15 (1) STRATEGY.—The Council, working with
16 teen drivers and leaders in teen traffic safety, in-
17 cluding representatives of appropriate Federal agen-
18 cies, shall study and develop an education and pre-
19 vention strategy for reducing injuries and fatalities
20 for teen drivers.

21 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
23 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
24 gress a report containing the results of the study

1 conducted by the Council and a description of the
2 strategy developed.

3 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act the following definitions apply:

5 (1) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
6 of Transportation.

7 (2) The term “teen driver” means a driver
8 under the age of 21.

9 (3) The term “teen traffic safety program” in-
10 cludes peer-to-peer education and prevention strate-
11 gies in schools and communities to increase safety
12 belt use and reduce speeding, impaired and dis-
13 tracted driving, underage drinking, and other de-
14 structive decisions among teen drivers that lead to
15 injuries and fatalities.

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