

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3679

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2010

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. DORGAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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 the “STARS Act
6 of 2010”.

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

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
9 tation shall establish a teen traffic safety grant program
10 under which the Secretary shall award grants to States

1 to implement a statewide program to improve the traffic
2 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—

6 (1) to increase safety belt use;

7 (2) to reduce speeding;

8 (3) to reduce impaired and distracted driving;

9 (4) to reduce underage drinking; and

10 (5) to reduce other destructive decisions by teen
11 drivers that lead to injuries and fatalities.

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

16 (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A State may use grant
17 funds received under this section to implement a statewide
18 program to improve traffic safety of teen drivers, includ-
19 ing—

20 (1) working with student-led groups and advi-
21 sors from schools to plan and implement teen traffic
22 safety programs;

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

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

4 (4) creating statewide or regional websites to
5 publicize and circulate information on teen safety
6 programs;

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

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

14 (7) collaborating with law enforcement;

15 (8) organizing and hosting State and regional
16 conferences for teen drivers;

17 (9) establishing partnerships and promoting co-
18 ordination among community stakeholders, including
19 public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities; and

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

22 (e) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant avail-
23 able to a State under this section shall be based on a for-
24 mula administered by the Secretary, which shall—

1 (1) consider the number of teen drivers in each
2 State; and

3 (2) guarantee that each State that applies for
4 a grant under this section receives at least \$200,000
5 per year.

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

10 (g) REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—An agency of a
11 State that receives a grant under this section may reallo-
12 cate grant funds to 1 or more nonprofit organizations to
13 carry out the grant program under this section.

14 (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER AND CLEAR-
15 INGHOUSE.—

16 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—From funds
17 appropriated pursuant to subsection (i), the Sec-
18 retary of Transportation may use up to \$500,000 to
19 contract with a national, nonprofit organization to
20 establish a technical assistance center (referred to in
21 this subsection as the “Center”) to provide training
22 and technical assistance to State and local officials,
23 student leaders, school advisors, and other entities
24 associated with the grant program under this sec-
25 tion.

1 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Center may use
2 funds received under such paragraph for training,
3 communications, publications, conferences, meetings
4 and other assistance considered appropriate to de-
5 velop and sustain a statewide program to improve
6 traffic safety of teen drivers.

7 (3) CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Center may operate
8 a national teen traffic safety clearinghouse—

9 (A) to develop information and resources
10 for improving the health and safety of teen
11 drivers;

12 (B) to disseminate techniques and strate-
13 gies used for successful teen safety programs;
14 and

15 (C) to develop and carry out a public
16 awareness campaign related to the safety of
17 teen drivers.

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

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

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
25 the National Teen Driver Advisory Council (referred to

1 in this section as the “Council”), which shall be comprised
 2 of teen drivers and leaders in teen traffic safety.

3 (b) STRATEGY AND REPORT.—

4 (1) STRATEGY.—The Council, in consultation
 5 with teen drivers and leaders in teen traffic safety,
 6 including representatives of appropriate Federal
 7 agencies, shall study and develop an education and
 8 prevention strategy for reducing injuries and fatali-
 9 ties for teen drivers.

10 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
 11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 12 shall submit a report to the appropriate committees
 13 of Congress that contains—

14 (A) the results of the study conducted by
 15 the Council; and

16 (B) a description of the strategy developed
 17 by the Council.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 21 the Secretary of Transportation.

22 (2) TEEN DRIVER.—The term “teen driver”
 23 means a driver who is younger than 21 years of age.

24 (3) TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM.—The
 25 term “teen traffic safety program” includes peer-to-

1 peer education and prevention strategies in schools
2 and communities to increase safety belt use and to
3 reduce speeding, impaired and distracted driving,
4 underage drinking, and other destructive decisions
5 by teen drivers that lead to injuries and fatalities.

