

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1422

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 27, 2011

Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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 2011” or the “STARS Act
6 of 2011”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Transportation.

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

3 (3) TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM.—The
4 term “teen traffic safety program” includes peer-to-
5 peer education and prevention strategies in schools
6 and communities to increase safety belt use and to
7 reduce speeding, impaired and distracted driving,
8 underage drinking, and other destructive decisions
9 by teen drivers that lead to injuries and fatalities.

10 **SEC. 3. TEEN DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
12 tation shall establish a teen traffic safety grant program
13 under which the Secretary shall award grants to States
14 to implement a statewide program to improve the traffic
15 safety of teen drivers.

16 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to
17 support peer-to-peer education and prevention strategies
18 in schools and communities—

19 (1) to increase safety belt use;

20 (2) to reduce speeding;

21 (3) to reduce impaired and distracted driving;

22 (4) to reduce underage drinking; and

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

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

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

9 (1) working with student-led groups and advi-
10 sors from schools to plan and implement teen traffic
11 safety programs;

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

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

18 (4) creating statewide or regional websites to
19 publicize and circulate information on teen safety
20 programs;

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

23 (6) establishing State or regional advisory coun-
24 cils comprised of teen drivers to provide input and
25 recommendations to the governor and governor's

1 safety representative on issues related to the safety
2 of teen drivers;

3 (7) collaborating with law enforcement;

4 (8) organizing and hosting State and regional
5 conferences for teen drivers;

6 (9) establishing partnerships and promoting co-
7 ordination among community stakeholders, including
8 public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities; and

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

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

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

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

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

23 (g) REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—An agency of a
24 State that receives a grant under this section may reallo-

1 cate grant funds to 1 or more nonprofit organizations to
2 carry out the grant program under this section.

3 (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER AND CLEAR-
4 INGHOUSE.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—From funds
6 appropriated pursuant to subsection (i), the Sec-
7 retary of Transportation may use up to \$500,000 to
8 contract with a national, nonprofit organization to
9 establish a technical assistance center (referred to in
10 this subsection as the “Center”) to provide training
11 and technical assistance to State and local officials,
12 student leaders, school advisors, and other entities
13 associated with the grant program under this sec-
14 tion.

15 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Center may use
16 funds received under such paragraph for training,
17 communications, publications, conferences, meetings
18 and other assistance considered appropriate to de-
19 velop and sustain a statewide program to improve
20 traffic safety of teen drivers.

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

23 (A) to develop information and resources
24 for improving the health and safety of teen
25 drivers;

1 (B) to disseminate techniques and strate-
2 gies used for successful teen safety programs;
3 and

4 (C) to develop and carry out a public
5 awareness campaign related to the safety of
6 teen drivers.

7 (i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated from the Highway Trust
9 Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) \$25,000,000
10 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 to carry out
11 this section.

12 **SEC. 4. TEEN DRIVER ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

13 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish
14 the National Teen Driver Advisory Council (referred to
15 in this section as the “Council”), which shall be comprised
16 of teen drivers and leaders in teen traffic safety.

17 (b) **STRATEGY AND REPORT.**—

18 (1) **STRATEGY.**—The Council, in consultation
19 with teen drivers and leaders in teen traffic safety,
20 including representatives of appropriate Federal
21 agencies, shall study and develop an education and
22 prevention strategy for reducing injuries and fatali-
23 ties for teen drivers.

24 (2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 shall submit a report to the appropriate committees
2 of Congress that contains—

3 (A) the results of the study conducted by
4 the Council; and

5 (B) a description of the strategy developed
6 by the Council.

7 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

8 Of the amounts made available to carry out section
9 406 of title 23, United States Code, for each of fiscal years
10 2012 through 2016, \$25,000,000 shall be made available
11 to carry out this Act.

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