

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1291

To improve highway-rail grade crossing safety, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2015

Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIMES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To improve highway-rail grade crossing safety, 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 “Highway-Rail Grade
5 Crossing Safety Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. RAILWAY-HIGHWAY CROSSING PROGRAM.**

7 In addition to amounts otherwise apportioned for the
8 highway safety improvement program described in section
9 148 of title 23, United States Code, there are authorized
10 to be appropriated, for each of fiscal years 2016 through

1 2019, \$50,000,000, which shall be set aside for the Rail-
2 way-Highway Crossings Program authorized under section
3 130 of such title.

4 **SEC. 3. HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING GRANTS SAFETY**
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 Chapter 225 of title 49, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) in section 22501(1), by striking “to a max-
9 imum of 3 States per year for development” and in-
10 serting “for the development”;

11 (2) in section 22504(b)—

12 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
13 “UNDER SECTION 22501(2)”;

14 (B) by striking “22501(2)” and inserting
15 “22501”; and

16 (C) by striking “\$250,000” and inserting
17 “\$2,500,000”; and

18 (3) by amending section 22505 to read as fol-
19 lows:

20 **“§ 22505. Authorization of appropriations**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
22 propriated, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019,
23 \$100,000,000 for grants authorized under section 22501.

1 “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
 2 priated pursuant to this section shall remain available
 3 until expended.”.

4 **SEC. 4. RAIL LINE RELOCATION AND IMPROVEMENT CAP-**
 5 **ITAL GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 Section 20154 of title 49, United States Code, is
 7 amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “, motor
 9 vehicle traffic flow, community quality of life, or eco-
 10 nomic development”;

11 (2) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “motor ve-
 12 hicle and pedestrian traffic, safety, community qual-
 13 ity of life, and area commerce” and inserting “safe-
 14 ty”;

15 (3) in subsection (h)—

16 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

17 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
 18 paragraph (2); and

19 (4) in subsection (i), by striking “\$350,000,000
 20 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2009” and
 21 inserting “\$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 22 2016 through 2019”.

1 **SEC. 5. OPERATION LIFESAVER.**

2 Section 206(c) of the Rail Safety Improvement Act
3 of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110–432) is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Railroad
7 Administration \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016
8 through 2019 for purposes of carrying out this section.”.

9 **SEC. 6. HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING SAFETY PER-**
10 **SONNEL.**

11 (a) GRADE CROSSING SAFETY MANAGERS.—In addi-
12 tion to the personnel authorized to be employed by the
13 Federal Railroad Administration on the day before the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administration shall
15 hire 16 full-time grade crossing safety managers to work
16 with State and local officials to identify safety improve-
17 ments to highway-rail grade crossings.

18 (b) TRESPASS PREVENTION MANAGERS.—In addi-
19 tion to the personnel authorized to be employed by the
20 Federal Railroad Administration on the day before the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administration shall
22 hire 8 trespass prevention managers to work with local
23 governments, schools, businesses, and railroads to develop
24 site-specific mitigation plans.

25 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
26 are authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Railroad

1 Administration, for fiscal years 2016 through 2019, such
2 sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

3 **SEC. 7. FEASIBILITY OF USING NEW TECHNOLOGY TO RE-**
4 **PORT HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING**
5 **PROBLEMS.**

6 Section 20152 of title 49, United States Code, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(c) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary of Trans-
9 portation shall conduct a study of the feasibility of requir-
10 ing railroad carriers to provide additional means for the
11 public to report problems at highway-rail grade crossings,
12 including through an Internet Web site and text mes-
13 saging.”.

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