

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 200

To amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, with respect to congestion mitigation and metropolitan transportation planning, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2015

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

A BILL

To amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, with respect to congestion mitigation and metropolitan transportation planning, 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 “Commute Less Act
5 of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 5303(b) of title 49,
8 United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
10 graph (9);

1 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
2 (6) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively;

3 (3) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
4 designated by paragraph (2) of this subsection) the
5 following:

6 “(1) EMPLOYER-BASED COMMUTER PRO-
7 GRAM.—The term ‘employer-based commuter pro-
8 gram’ means a program implemented by an em-
9 ployer that provides employees of that employer with
10 alternatives to driving to and from work in a vehicle
11 occupied by a single individual, including the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(A) A carpool program.

14 “(B) A vanpool program.

15 “(C) A transit benefit program.

16 “(D) A parking cash-out program.

17 “(E) A shuttle program.

18 “(F) A telework program.”; and

19 (4) by inserting before paragraph (9) (as so re-
20 designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) the
21 following:

22 “(8) TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ORGANI-
23 ZATION.—The term ‘transportation management or-
24 ganization’ means a local, regional, or statewide as-
25 sociation of employers established for the purpose of

1 providing employees of those employers with alter-
2 natives to driving to and from work in a vehicle oc-
3 cupied by a single individual.”.

4 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLAN.—

5 (1) TRANSPORTATION PLAN.—Section
6 5303(i)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
7 ed by adding at the end the following:

8 “(I) EMPLOYER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
9 AND STRATEGIES.—Proposed activities and
10 strategies to provide outreach to employers and
11 transportation management organizations to fa-
12 cilitate the creation and expansion of employer-
13 based commuter programs.”.

14 (2) PARTICIPATION BY INTERESTED PAR-
15 TIES.—Section 5303(i)(6)(A) of title 49, United
16 States Code, is amended by inserting after “the dis-
17 abled,” the following: “representatives of employers
18 and transportation management organizations,”.

19 (c) METROPOLITAN TIP.—Section 5303(j)(2)(A) of
20 title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the
21 period at the end and inserting “, including projects iden-
22 tified in a relevant commuter trip reduction plan developed
23 under subsection (r).”.

1 (d) TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREAS.—Sec-
2 tion 5303(k)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
3 ed by adding at the end the following:

4 “(C) EMPLOYER INVOLVEMENT.—A proc-
5 ess for addressing congestion management
6 under subparagraph (A) shall be developed in
7 coordination with any relevant employer advi-
8 sory council established under subsection (r)
9 and shall include projects identified in the com-
10 muter trip reduction plan of that council.”.

11 (e) EMPLOYER ADVISORY COUNCILS AND INFORMA-
12 TION CLEARINGHOUSE.—Section 5303 of title 49, United
13 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(r) EMPLOYER ADVISORY COUNCILS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each metropolitan plan-
17 ning organization serving a transportation manage-
18 ment area shall establish an employer advisory coun-
19 cil that consists of representatives of employers in
20 the area served by the metropolitan planning organi-
21 zation.

22 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer advisory
24 council shall consist of not less than 7 rep-
25 resentatives of employers and representatives of

1 identified transportation management organiza-
2 tions in the area served by the relevant metro-
3 politan planning organization.

4 “(B) ENSURING A DIVERSE CROSS-SEC-
5 TION OF EMPLOYERS.—In establishing an em-
6 ployer advisory council, a metropolitan planning
7 organization, to the extent practicable, shall en-
8 sure that the membership of the council in-
9 cludes a diverse cross-section of employers from
10 the area served by the organization.

11 “(3) COMMUTER TRIP REDUCTION PLAN.—An
12 employer advisory council established under para-
13 graph (1) shall develop and maintain a commuter
14 trip reduction plan that identifies—

15 “(A) commuting patterns in the area
16 served by the relevant metropolitan planning or-
17 ganization;

18 “(B) area goals for the reduction of vehicle
19 miles traveled during peak commuting hours;

20 “(C) existing and proposed employer-based
21 commuter programs in the area;

22 “(D) a series of projects and activities to
23 facilitate achievement of the goals identified
24 under subparagraph (B); and

1 “(E) a financing plan for the projects and
2 activities identified under subparagraph (D).

3 “(s) INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Sec-
4 retary is authorized to make a grant to a national non-
5 profit organization engaged in efforts relating to em-
6 ployer-based commuter programs or another entity to—

7 “(1) establish and operate an information clear-
8 inghouse relating to employer investment in trans-
9 portation and employer-based commuter programs;

10 “(2) develop an education program with respect
11 to employer investment in transportation and em-
12 ployer-based commuter programs; and

13 “(3) provide technical assistance relating to em-
14 ployer-based commuter programs and disseminate
15 techniques and strategies used by successful em-
16 ployer-based commuter programs.”.

17 **SEC. 3. CONGESTION MITIGATION DURING PROJECT CON-**
18 **STRUCTION.**

19 Section 106 of title 23, United States Code, is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(k) CONGESTION MITIGATION PLANS.—

22 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—A recipient of Federal fi-
23 nancial assistance under this title for a project with
24 an estimated total cost of \$75,000,000 or more or
25 that will reduce traffic flow (as defined by the Sec-

1 retary) for more than 120 days shall prepare a con-
2 gestion mitigation plan for such project that includes
3 funding for projects to reduce vehicle miles traveled
4 during peak commuting hours along the impacted
5 corridor.

6 “(2) COORDINATION.—A recipient shall prepare
7 a congestion mitigation plan under paragraph (1) in
8 coordination with any relevant employer advisory
9 council established under section 5303(r) of title 49.

10 “(3) REVIEW BY SECRETARY.—A congestion
11 mitigation plan prepared under paragraph (1) shall
12 be made available to the Secretary for review upon
13 the request of the Secretary.”.

14 **SEC. 4. EMPLOYER-BASED COMMUTER PROGRAMS ACTION**
15 **PLAN.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation
17 shall develop and implement a plan to expand and promote
18 employer-based commuter programs (as defined in section
19 5303(b) of title 49, United States Code).

20 (b) CONTENTS.—The plan developed under sub-
21 section (a) shall include plans—

22 (1) to amend existing regulations and guidance
23 and, if necessary, develop new regulations and guid-
24 ance to ensure that employer-based commuter pro-

1 grams are integrated, to the extent possible, into all
2 appropriate Federal transportation programs;

3 (2) to identify best practices with respect to
4 employer-based commuter programs;

5 (3) to research the effectiveness and efficiency
6 of employer-based commuter programs; and

7 (4) to create a national and regional peer ex-
8 change program to ensure that developments with
9 respect to employer-based commuter programs are
10 shared and issues are addressed.

11 (c) **TIMING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date
12 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize and
13 begin implementation of the plan developed under sub-
14 section (a).

15 (d) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 2 years
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
17 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
18 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the
20 Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Sen-
21 ate a report on the implementation and impact of the plan
22 developed under subsection (a).

23 **SEC. 5. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS REPORT.**

24 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-

1 tation shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
2 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
3 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
4 and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of
5 the Senate a report with recommendations on how to bet-
6 ter integrate employer-based commuter programs (as de-
7 fined in section 5303(b) of title 49, United States Code)
8 into emergency planning, preparedness, and response ac-
9 tivities.

10 (b) COORDINATION.—In preparing the report under
11 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

12 (1) the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
13 gency Management Agency; and

14 (2) stakeholders, including national and re-
15 gional organizations and experts that promote em-
16 ployer-based commuter programs.

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