

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1273

To establish the Strengthening America’s Bridges Fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2015

Ms. AYOTTE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To establish the Strengthening America’s Bridges Fund, 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 “Strengthening Amer-
5 ica’s Bridges Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING AMERICA’S BRIDGES FUND.**

7 (a) STRENGTHENING AMERICA’S BRIDGES FUND.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
9 Treasury of the United States a fund to be known
10 as the “Strengthening America’s Bridges Fund”,

1 consisting of such amounts as may be appropriated
2 to such fund as provided in paragraph (2).

3 (2) TRANSFERS TO FUND.—There is hereby ap-
4 propriated to the Strengthening America’s Bridges
5 Fund an amount equivalent to the increase in rev-
6 enue received in the Treasury by reason of the
7 amendments made by subsection (b), as determined
8 by the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s
9 delegate).

10 (3) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—Amounts in
11 the Strengthening America’s Bridges Fund shall be
12 made available by the Secretary of Transportation
13 (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) for the
14 purpose of making grants, in accordance with the re-
15 quirements of this subsection, to States for the re-
16 pair or maintenance of any bridges classified as defi-
17 cient in the National Bridge Inventory, as author-
18 ized under section 144(b) of title 23, United States
19 Code.

20 (4) SELECTION PROCESS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall se-
22 lect the recipients of grants awarded under this
23 subsection in accordance with the criteria pub-
24 lished under subparagraph (B) and described in
25 paragraph (5).

1 (B) PUBLICATION OF CRITERIA.—The Sec-
2 retary shall publish selection criteria for any
3 grants awarded under this subsection not ear-
4 lier than 60 days after the date of enactment
5 of this Act.

6 (C) TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION.—Applica-
7 tions for funding made available under this Act
8 shall be submitted not earlier than 120 days
9 after the date on which the criteria are pub-
10 lished under subparagraph (B).

11 (D) DEADLINE FOR SELECTION.—The
12 Secretary shall select and announce all projects
13 selected under this paragraph not earlier than
14 60 days after the last day of the submission pe-
15 riod described in subparagraph (C).

16 (5) CRITERIA.—In making grants under this
17 subsection, the Secretary shall ensure—

18 (A) an equitable geographic distribution of
19 funds, including an appropriate balance in ad-
20 dressing the needs of urban and rural areas;

21 (B) that not more than 25 percent of the
22 funds made available under this Act are award-
23 ed to projects in a single State;

1 (C) that not less than 20 percent of the
 2 funds provided under this Act shall be for
 3 projects located in rural areas;

4 (D) that for projects located in rural areas,
 5 the Secretary may increase the Federal share of
 6 costs to more than 80 percent; and

7 (E) that priority is given to projects that
 8 require a contribution of Federal funds in order
 9 to complete an overall financing package.

10 (6) RETENTION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
 11 may retain up to 10 percent of the funds made
 12 available to the Secretary under paragraph (3), and
 13 may transfer portions of those funds to the Adminis-
 14 trators of the Federal Highway Administration, to
 15 fund the award and oversight of grants made under
 16 this subsection.

17 (7) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in
 18 paragraph (5)(D), the Federal share of the costs for
 19 which an expenditure is made under this subsection
 20 shall be, at the option of the recipient, not more
 21 than 80 percent.

22 (b) SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIRED TO CLAIM
 23 THE REFUNDABLE PORTION OF THE CHILD TAX CRED-
 24 IT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 24
2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 “(e) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT
5 TO QUALIFYING CHILDREN.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
7 no credit shall be allowed under this section to a tax-
8 payer with respect to any qualifying child unless the
9 taxpayer includes the name and taxpayer identifica-
10 tion number of such qualifying child on the return
11 of tax for the taxable year.

12 “(2) REFUNDABLE PORTION.—Subsection
13 (d)(1) shall not apply to any taxpayer with respect
14 to any qualifying child unless the taxpayer includes
15 the name and social security number of such quali-
16 fying child on the return of tax for the taxable
17 year.”.

18 (2) OMISSION TREATED AS MATHEMATICAL OR
19 CLERICAL ERROR.—Subparagraph (I) of section
20 6213(g)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 “(I) an omission of a correct TIN under
23 section 24(e)(1) (relating to child tax credit) or
24 a correct Social Security number required
25 under section 24(e)(2) (relating to refundable

1 portion of child tax credit), to be included on a
2 return,”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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