

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1703

To direct the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to carry out a collaborative research effort to prevent drunk driving injuries and fatalities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. UDALL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to carry out a collaborative research effort to prevent drunk driving injuries and fatalities, 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 “Research of Alcohol
5 Detection Systems for Stopping Alcohol-Related Fatalities
6 Everywhere Act of 2015” or the “ROADS SAFE Act of
7 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities represent
4 approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of all highway fatalities in the
5 United States in a given year.

6 (2) In 2013, there were 10,336 alcohol-im-
7 paired driving fatalities in the United States.

8 (3) The National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-
9 ministration has partnered with automobile manu-
10 facturers to develop alcohol detection technologies
11 that could be installed in vehicles to prevent drunk
12 driving.

13 (4) An estimated 59,000 lives and
14 \$343,000,000,000 could be saved over a 15-year pe-
15 riod by the widespread installation of alcohol detec-
16 tion technologies in motor vehicles.

17 (5) Alcohol detection technologies will not be
18 widely accepted by the public unless they are—

19 (A) moderately priced;

20 (B) absolutely reliable; and

21 (C) set at a level that would not prevent a
22 driver whose blood alcohol content is less than
23 the legal limit from operating a vehicle.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING.—The term
 2 “alcohol-impaired driving” means operation of a
 3 motor vehicle (as defined in section 30102(a)(6) of
 4 title 49, United States Code) by an individual whose
 5 blood alcohol content is at or above the legal limit.

6 (2) LEGAL LIMIT.—The term “legal limit”
 7 means a blood alcohol concentration of—

8 (A) 0.08 percent or greater (as specified in
 9 section 163(a) of title 23, United States Code);
 10 or

11 (B) such other percentage limitation as
 12 may be established by applicable Federal, State,
 13 or local law.

14 **SEC. 4. DRIVER ALCOHOL DETECTION SYSTEM FOR SAFETY**
 15 **RESEARCH.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-
 17 tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall carry
 18 out a collaborative research effort to continue to explore
 19 the feasibility and the potential benefits of, and the public
 20 policy challenges associated with, more widespread deploy-
 21 ment of in-vehicle technology to prevent alcohol-impaired
 22 driving.

23 (b) REPORTS.—The Administrator shall submit an
 24 annual report to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 25 and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on

1 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
 2 resentatives that—

3 (1) describes the progress made by the National
 4 Highway Traffic Safety Administration in carrying
 5 out the collaborative research effort required under
 6 subsection (a); and

7 (2) includes an accounting of the use of Federal
 8 funds obligated or expended in carrying out such ef-
 9 fort.

10 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION WITH OTHER LAWS.**

11 Nothing in this Act may be construed to modify or
 12 otherwise affect any Federal, State, or local government
 13 law (whether civil or criminal) with respect to the oper-
 14 ation of a motor vehicle.

15 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
 17 priated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the
 18 Mass Transit Account), to carry out the collaborative re-
 19 search effort described in section 4(a)—

20 (1) \$6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2016
 21 and 2017;

22 (2) \$8,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018
 23 and 2019; and

24 (3) \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
 25 2020 and 2021.

1 (b) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 23.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
3 graph (2), amounts made available under subsection
4 (a) shall be available for obligation and administered
5 in the same manner as if the funds were apportioned
6 under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code.

7 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Federal share payable
8 for a project or activity carried out using amounts
9 appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be 100
10 percent.

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