

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 532

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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)”; and

14 (B) by striking “\$250,000” and inserting
 15 “\$2,500,000”; and

16 (3) by amending section 22505 to read as fol-
 17 lows:

18 **“§ 22505. Authorization of appropriations**

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

22 “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
 23 priated pursuant to this section shall remain available
 24 until expended.”.

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

3 Section 20154 of title 49, United States Code, is
 4 amended—

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

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

12 (3) in subsection (h)—

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

14 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
 15 paragraph (2); and

16 (4) in subsection (i), by striking “\$350,000,000
 17 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2009” and
 18 inserting “\$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
 19 2016 through 2019”.

20 **SEC. 5. OPERATION LIFESAVER.**

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

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

1 Administration, for each of the fiscal years 2016 through
2 2019, \$3,000,000 to carry out this section.”.

3 **SEC. 6. HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING SAFETY PER-**
4 **SONNEL.**

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

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

19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Railroad
21 Administration, for fiscal years 2016 through 2019, such
22 sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

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

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

6 “(c) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary of Trans-
7 portation shall conduct a study of the feasibility of requir-
8 ing railroads to provide additional means for the public
9 to report problems at highway-rail grade crossings, includ-
10 ing through a website and text messaging.”.

