

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7442

To eliminate the Carbon Reduction Program and PROTECT Program and dedicate the funding to a new bridge formula program that distributes funding based primarily on overall deck area, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mr. GILL of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To eliminate the Carbon Reduction Program and PROTECT Program and dedicate the funding to a new bridge formula program that distributes funding based primarily on overall deck area, 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 “National Bridge Fund-  
5 ing Reform Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL BRIDGE PROGRAM AND PROGRAM**  
2 **ELIMINATION.**

3 (a) APPORTIONMENT.—Section 104 of title 23,  
4 United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by striking subsection (b)(7) and subsection  
6 (b)(8); and

7 (2) by inserting in its place the following:

8 “(7) NATIONAL BRIDGE PROGRAM.—For the  
9 national bridge program under section 175,  
10 5.47660865256628 percent of the amount remaining  
11 after distributing amounts under paragraphs (4),  
12 (5), and (6).”.

13 (b) CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM.—Chapter 1 of  
14 title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking Sec-  
15 tion 175.

16 (c) PROMOTING RESILIENT OPERATIONS FOR  
17 TRANSFORMATIVE, EFFICIENT, AND COST-SAVING  
18 TRANSPORTATION (PROTECT) PROGRAM.—Chapter 1 of  
19 title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking Sec-  
20 tion 176.

21 (d) IN GENERAL.—Title 23, United States Code, is  
22 amended by inserting after section 175 the following:

23 **“§ 175. National bridge program**

24 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
25 lish and implement a national bridge program under this  
26 section.

1       “(b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of the national bridge  
2 program shall be to provide support for the replacement,  
3 rehabilitation, preservation, protection, and construction  
4 of bridges on Federal-aid highways and for other pur-  
5 poses.

6       “(c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds apportioned to a  
8 State to carry out the national bridge program may  
9 be obligated for the replacement, rehabilitation,  
10 preservation, protection, and construction of bridges  
11 on Federal-aid highways.

12           “(2) FLEXIBILITY.—At the discretion of each  
13 State, funds made available for the national bridge  
14 program may be obligated for the replacement, reha-  
15 bilitation, preservation, protection, and construction  
16 of bridges not on Federal-aid highways.

17       “(d) APPORTIONMENT.—The Secretary shall dis-  
18 tribute the funds apportioned under section 104(b)(7) to  
19 carry out this section among States as follows—

20           “(1) 75 percent by the proportion that the total  
21 deck area of bridges on Federal-aid highways in  
22 such State bears to the sum of the total deck area  
23 of bridges on Federal-aid highways in all States; and

24           “(2) 25 percent by the proportion that the total  
25 deck area of bridges on Federal-aid highways classi-

1       fied as in poor condition in such State bears to the  
2       sum of the total deck area of bridges on Federal-aid  
3       highways classified as being in poor condition in all  
4       States.

5       “(e) NATIONAL BRIDGE INVENTORY.—For purposes  
6 of determining the distribution of funds to States under  
7 subsection (d), the Secretary shall calculate the total deck  
8 area of bridges and the total deck area of bridges classified  
9 as being in poor condition based on the National Bridge  
10 Inventory as of December 31, 2024.”.

11       (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

12               (1) Section 104 of title 23, United States Code,  
13 is amended—

14                       (A) in subsection (b)—

15                               (i) in the matter preceding paragraph  
16                               (1), by striking “the carbon reduction pro-  
17                               gram under section 175, to carry out sub-  
18                               section (c) of the PROTECT program  
19                               under section 176,”; and

20                               (ii) by striking paragraphs (7) and  
21                               (8);

22                       (B) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “the  
23                       carbon reduction program under section 175, to  
24                       carry out subsection (c) of the PROTECT pro-  
25                       gram under section 176,”; and

1 (C) in subsection (h) by striking “the car-  
2 bon reduction program under section 175, to  
3 carry out subsection (c) of the PROTECT pro-  
4 gram under section 176,”.

5 (2) Section 120(l)(2)(A) of title 23, United  
6 States Code, is amended by striking clauses (vi) and  
7 (vii).

8 (3) Section 520(e)(3)(B) of title 23, United  
9 States Code, is amended by striking clause (ii).

10 (f) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
11 ter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) by striking the items relating to section 175  
13 and section 176 in effect prior to enactment of this  
14 section; and

15 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
16 tion 174 the following:

“175. National bridge program.”.

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