

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 713

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2019

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 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. RAILWAY-HIGHWAY CROSSING PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise
8 apportioned for the highway safety improvement program
9 under section 148 of title 23, United States Code, there
10 is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000, which shall

1 be set aside for the Railway-Highway Crossings Program
 2 under section 130 of that title, for each of fiscal years
 3 2020 through 2024.

4 (b) TREATMENT.—Funds made available under sub-
 5 section (a) shall be administered as if apportioned under
 6 chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code.

7 **SEC. 3. CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFE-**
 8 **TY IMPROVEMENTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11102 of the FAST Act
 10 (Public Law 114–94; 129 Stat. 1623) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 13 by striking “section 24407 of title 49, United
 14 States Code, (as added by section 11301 of this
 15 Act)” and inserting “section 22907 of title 49,
 16 United States Code”;

17 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking
 18 “\$330,000,000” and inserting “\$780,000,000”;
 19 and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(6) For each of fiscal years 2021 through
 22 2024, such sums as are necessary.”;

23 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “section
 24 24407” and inserting “section 22907”; and

1 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(c) HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING SAFETY;
4 RAIL LINE RELOCATION AND IMPROVEMENT.—From the
5 amount appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary
6 shall use, for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024—
7 “(1) \$250,000,000 to carry out section
8 22907(c)(6) of title 49, United States Code;
9 “(2) \$175,000,000 to carry out section
10 22907(c)(5) of title 49, United States Code; and
11 “(3) \$25,000,000 to carry out section
12 22907(c)(10) of title 49, United States Code.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
14 22907(c)(10) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
15 by inserting “, including public education and awareness
16 campaigns for highway-rail grade crossing safety” after
17 “rail safety”.

18 **SEC. 4. OPERATION LIFESAVER.**

19 Section 206(c) of the Rail Safety Improvement Act
20 of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110–432; 49 U.S.C.
21 22907 note) is amended by striking subsection (c) and in-
22 serting the following:

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

1 Administration to carry out this section \$3,000,000 for
2 each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

3 **SEC. 5. 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 enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
9 Federal Railroad Administration (referred to in this sec-
10 tion as the “Administrator”) shall hire 16 full-time grade
11 crossing safety managers to work with State and local offi-
12 cials to identify safety improvements to highway-rail grade
13 crossings.

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

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
23 carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each
24 of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

1 **SEC. 6. PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON**
 2 **HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING PROB-**
 3 **LEMS.**

4 Section 20152 of title 49, United States Code, is
 5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
 7 paragraph (1), by inserting “(referred to in this sec-
 8 tion as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Transportation”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND STATIS-
 11 TICS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
 12 ment of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

13 “(1) aggregate information and statistics relat-
 14 ing to highway-rail grade crossings, including from
 15 studies conducted by the Federal Railroad Adminis-
 16 tration, rail carriers, and independent entities;

17 “(2) provide the information and statistics de-
 18 scribed in paragraph (1) to State departments of
 19 transportation; and

20 “(3) establish and maintain a publicly acces-
 21 sible Internet website that contains the information
 22 and statistics described in paragraph (1).”.

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