

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 975

To amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the bridge discretionary program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 1997

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

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the bridge discretionary program, 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 “Safe Bridges Act of
5 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) bridges are important and necessary compo-
9 nents of the surface transportation system of the
10 United States;

1 (2) bridges are an important factor in the effi-
2 cient movement of people and goods;

3 (3) properly maintained and constructed
4 bridges help save lives;

5 (4) more than 25 percent of the bridges on the
6 Interstate System are classified as deficient or in
7 poor condition; and

8 (5) an investment of more than \$5,000,000,000
9 annually is needed to maintain the bridges that are
10 in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 3. BRIDGE DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM.**

12 (a) **EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.**—Section 144(g) of
13 title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking para-
14 graph (1) and inserting the following:

15 “(1) **DISCRETIONARY BRIDGE PROGRAM.**—

16 “(A) **SET ASIDE.**—For each fiscal year, be-
17 fore any apportionment is made under sub-
18 section (e), the Secretary shall set aside
19 \$500,000,000 from the funds authorized to
20 carry out this section.

21 “(B) **USE OF SET ASIDE.**—The amount set
22 aside under subparagraph (A) shall be available
23 for obligation in the same manner and to the
24 same extent as the sums apportioned under
25 subsection (e), except that—

1 “(i) the amount shall be available for
2 obligation at the discretion of the Sec-
3 retary;

4 “(ii) for each fiscal year, \$8,500,000
5 of the amount shall be available to carry
6 out section 144A;

7 “(iii) for each fiscal year, \$12,500,000
8 of the amount shall be available to carry
9 out section 144B;

10 “(iv) for each fiscal year, \$15,000,000
11 of the amount shall be available to carry
12 out section 144C; and

13 “(v) the remainder of the amount
14 shall be available in accordance with para-
15 graph (2).

16 “(C) OTHER STATE FUNDS.—Funds made
17 available to a State under subparagraph (B)
18 shall not be considered in determining the ap-
19 portionments and allocations that the State
20 shall be entitled to receive, under the other pro-
21 visions of this title and other law, of amounts
22 in the Highway Trust Fund.”.

23 (b) HIGHWAY TIMBER BRIDGE RESEARCH AND CON-
24 STRUCTION PROGRAM.—

1 (1) TRANSFER TO TITLE 23.—Section 1039 of
2 the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency
3 Act of 1991 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 105 Stat. 1990)
4 is—

5 (A) transferred to title 23, United States
6 Code;

7 (B) redesignated as section 144A of that
8 title; and

9 (C) inserted after section 144 of that title.

10 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (A) Section 144A of title 23, United States
12 Code (as added by paragraph (1)), is amend-
13 ed—

14 (i) by striking the section heading and
15 inserting the following:

16 “§ 144A. Highway timber bridge research and con-
17 struction program”;

18 (ii) in subsection (e)—

19 (I) by striking “of title 23, Unit-
20 ed States Code, for each of fiscal
21 years 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996,
22 and 1997” and inserting “for each of
23 fiscal years 1998 through 2003”; and

1 (II) in paragraph (2), by striking
 2 “(\$7,000,000 in the case of fiscal year
 3 1992)”; and
 4 (iii) by striking subsection (f).

5 (B) The analysis for chapter 1 of title 23,
 6 United States Code, is amended by inserting
 7 after the item relating to section 144 the follow-
 8 ing:

“144A. Highway timber bridge research and construction program.”.

9 **SEC. 4. INNOVATIVE HIGHWAY STEEL BRIDGE RESEARCH**
 10 **AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 23, United
 12 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 144A
 13 (as added by section 3(b)(1)) the following:

14 **“§ 144B. Innovative highway steel bridge research**
 15 **and construction program**

16 “(a) RESEARCH GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make
 17 grants to other Federal agencies, universities, private
 18 businesses, nonprofit organizations, and research or engi-
 19 neering entities to carry out research concerning—

20 “(1) the development of new, cost-effective
 21 highway steel bridge applications;

22 “(2) the development of engineering design cri-
 23 teria for steel products and materials for use in
 24 highway bridges and structures to improve steel de-
 25 sign properties;

1 “(3) the development of highway steel bridges
2 and structures that will withstand natural disasters;

3 “(4) the development of products, materials,
4 and systems for use in highway steel bridges that
5 demonstrate new alternatives to current processes
6 and procedures with respect to performance in var-
7 ious environments; and

8 “(5) rehabilitation measures that demonstrate
9 effective, safe, and reliable methods for the use of
10 steel in rehabilitating highway bridges and struc-
11 tures.

12 “(b) TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION TRANSFER.—
13 The Secretary shall take such action as is necessary to
14 ensure that the information and technology resulting from
15 research conducted under subsection (a) is made available
16 to State and local transportation departments and other
17 interests as specified by the Secretary.

18 “(c) CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—

19 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make
20 grants to States for projects for the construction of
21 steel bridges and structures on Federal-aid high-
22 ways.

23 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—

1 “(A) SUBMISSION.—A State that desires
2 to receive a grant under this subsection shall
3 submit an application to the Secretary.

4 “(B) CONTENTS.—The application shall be
5 in such form and contain such information as
6 the Secretary may require by regulation.

7 “(3) APPROVAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall
8 select and approve applications for grants under this
9 subsection based on whether the project that is the
10 subject of the grant—

11 “(A) has a design that has both initial and
12 long-term structural integrity;

13 “(B) has an innovative design, product,
14 material, or system that has the potential for
15 increasing knowledge, cost effectiveness, dura-
16 bility, and future use of the innovation; and

17 “(C) uses practices and construction tech-
18 niques that comply with all environmental regu-
19 lations.

20 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the
21 cost of a research or construction project under this sec-
22 tion shall be 80 percent.

23 “(e) FUNDING.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the funds reserved
2 from apportionment under section 144(g)(1) for
3 each of fiscal years 1998 through 2003—

4 “(A) \$2,500,000 shall be available to the
5 Secretary to carry out subsections (a) and (b);
6 and

7 “(B) \$10,000,000 shall be available to the
8 Secretary to carry out subsection (c).

9 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Sums made available
10 under paragraph (1) shall remain available until ex-
11 pended.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
13 chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by
14 inserting after the item relating to section 144A (as added
15 by section 3(b)(2)(B)) the following:

 “144B. Innovative highway steel bridge research and construction program.”.

16 **SEC. 5. CARBON COMPOSITE BRIDGE RETROFIT RESEARCH**
17 **AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 23, United
19 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 144B
20 (as added by section 4(a)) the following:

21 **“§ 144C. Carbon composite bridge retrofit research**
22 **and demonstration program**

23 “(a) RESEARCH GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make
24 grants to other Federal agencies and to universities, pri-
25 vate businesses, nonprofit organizations, and research or

1 engineering entities, in the United States, to carry out re-
2 search concerning—

3 “(1) the development of new, economical carbon
4 composite highway bridge retrofit systems;

5 “(2) the development of engineering design cri-
6 teria for carbon composite products for use in high-
7 way bridges in order to improve methods for charac-
8 terizing carbon composite design properties;

9 “(3) deployment systems for the incorporation
10 of carbon composites that demonstrate alternative
11 processes for the seismic retrofit of bridges and the
12 rehabilitation of structurally deficient bridge struc-
13 tures;

14 “(4) alternative carbon composite transpor-
15 tation system structures that demonstrate the devel-
16 opment of applications for lighting support, sound
17 barriers, culverts, and retaining walls in highway in-
18 frastructure; and

19 “(5) additional rehabilitation measures that
20 demonstrate effective, safe, and reliable methods for
21 rehabilitating highway infrastructure with carbon
22 composites.

23 “(b) TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION TRANSFER.—
24 The Secretary shall take such action as is necessary to
25 ensure that the information and technology resulting from

1 research conducted under subsection (a) is made available
2 to State and local transportation departments and other
3 interests as specified by the Secretary.

4 “(c) CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—

5 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make
6 grants to States for projects for the reconstruction
7 or seismic retrofit of bridges on the National High-
8 way System.

9 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—

10 “(A) SUBMISSION.—A State that desires
11 to receive a grant under this subsection shall
12 submit an application to the Secretary.

13 “(B) CONTENTS.—The application shall be
14 in such form and contain such information as
15 the Secretary may require by regulation.

16 “(3) APPROVAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall
17 select and approve applications for grants under this
18 subsection based on whether the project that is the
19 subject of the grant—

20 “(A) has a design that has both initial and
21 long-term structural and environmental integ-
22 rity;

23 “(B) has a design that uses carbon com-
24 posite materials;

1 “(C) has an innovative design that has the
2 potential for increasing knowledge, cost effec-
3 tiveness, and future use of the design;

4 “(D) will ensure the structural integrity of
5 a major river crossing in the New Madrid re-
6 gion during a seismic event;

7 “(E) will extend the service life of a struc-
8 turally deficient bridge by at least 15 years; and

9 “(F) uses bridge retrofit technology and
10 material that are produced in the United
11 States.

12 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the
13 cost of a research or construction project under this sec-
14 tion shall be 80 percent.

15 “(e) FUNDING.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the funds reserved
17 from apportionment under section 144(g)(1) for
18 each of fiscal years 1998 through 2003—

19 “(A) \$1,000,000 shall be available to the
20 Secretary to carry out subsections (a) and (b);
21 and

22 “(B) \$14,000,000 shall be available to the
23 Secretary to carry out subsection (c).

1 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Sums made available
2 under paragraph (1) shall remain available until ex-
3 pended.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
5 chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by
6 inserting after the item relating to section 144B (as added
7 by section 4(b)) the following:

“144C. Carbon composite bridge retrofit research and demonstration program.”.

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