

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3264

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for the rehabilitation, preservation, or improvement of railroad track.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for the rehabilitation, preservation, or improvement of railroad track.

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 “Railroad Track Mod-
5 ernization Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. CAPITAL GRANTS FOR RAILROAD TRACK.**

7 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 223 of title 49, United
8 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 **“CHAPTER 223—CAPITAL GRANTS FOR**
2 **RAILROAD TRACK**

“Sec.

“22301. Capital grants for railroad track.

3 **“§ 22301. Capital grants for railroad track**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

5 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of
6 Transportation shall establish a program of capital
7 grants for the rehabilitation, preservation, or im-
8 provement of railroad track (including roadbed,
9 bridges, and related track structures) of class II and
10 class III railroads. Such grants shall be for rehabili-
11 tating, preserving, or improving track used primarily
12 for freight transportation to a standard ensuring
13 that the track can be operated safely and efficiently,
14 including grants for rehabilitating, preserving, or im-
15 proving track to handle 286,000 pound rail cars.
16 Grants may be provided under this chapter—

17 “(A) directly to the class II or class III
18 railroad; or

19 “(B) with the concurrence of the class II
20 or class III railroad, to a State or local govern-
21 ment.

22 “(2) STATE COOPERATION.—Class II and class
23 III railroad applicants for a grant under this chap-
24 ter are encouraged to utilize the expertise and assist-

1 ance of State transportation agencies in applying for
2 and administering such grants. State transportation
3 agencies are encouraged to provide such expertise
4 and assistance to such railroads.

5 “(3) INTERIM REGULATIONS.—Not later than
6 December 31, 2005, the Secretary shall issue tem-
7 porary regulations to implement the program under
8 this section. Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5
9 does not apply to a temporary regulation issued
10 under this paragraph or to an amendment to such
11 a temporary regulation.

12 “(4) FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than Oc-
13 tober 1, 2006, the Secretary shall issue final regula-
14 tions to implement the program under this section.

15 “(b) MAXIMUM FEDERAL SHARE.—The maximum
16 Federal share for carrying out a project under this section
17 shall be 80 percent of the project cost. The non-Federal
18 share may be provided by any non-Federal source in cash,
19 equipment, or supplies. Other in-kind contributions may
20 be approved by the Secretary on a case by case basis con-
21 sistent with this chapter.

22 “(c) PROJECT ELIGIBILITY.—For a project to be eli-
23 gible for assistance under this section the track must have
24 been operated or owned by a class II or class III railroad

1 as of the date of the enactment of the Railroad Track
2 Modernization Act of 2005.

3 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants provided under this
4 section shall be used to implement track capital projects
5 as soon as possible. In no event shall grant funds be con-
6 tractually obligated for a project later than the end of the
7 third Federal fiscal year following the year in which the
8 grant was awarded. Any funds not so obligated by the end
9 of such fiscal year shall be returned to the Secretary for
10 reallocation.

11 “(e) EMPLOYEE PROTECTION.—The Secretary shall
12 require as a condition of any grant made under this sec-
13 tion that the recipient railroad provide a fair arrangement
14 at least as protective of the interests of employees who
15 are affected by the project to be funded with the grant
16 as the terms imposed under section 11326(a), as in effect
17 on the date of the enactment of the Railroad Track Mod-
18 ernization Act of 2005.

19 “(f) LABOR STANDARDS.—

20 “(1) PREVAILING WAGES.—The Secretary shall
21 ensure that laborers and mechanics employed by
22 contractors and subcontractors in construction work
23 financed by a grant made under this section will be
24 paid wages not less than those prevailing on similar
25 construction in the locality, as determined by the

1 Secretary of Labor under the Act of March 3, 1931
2 (known as the Davis-Bacon Act; 40 U.S.C. 276a et
3 seq.). The Secretary shall make a grant under this
4 section only after being assured that required labor
5 standards will be maintained on the construction
6 work.

7 “(2) WAGE RATES.—Wage rates in a collective
8 bargaining agreement negotiated under the Railway
9 Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) are deemed for
10 purposes of this subsection to comply with the Act
11 of March 3, 1931 (known as the Davis-Bacon Act;
12 40 U.S.C. 276a et seq.).

13 “(g) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study
14 of the projects carried out with grant assistance under this
15 section to determine the public interest benefits associated
16 with the light density railroad networks in the States and
17 their contribution to a multimodal transportation system.
18 Not later than March 31, 2007, the Secretary shall report
19 to Congress any recommendations the Secretary considers
20 appropriate regarding the eligibility of light density rail
21 networks for Federal infrastructure financing.

22 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of
24 Transportation \$350,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
25 2006 through 2008 for carrying out this section.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating
2 to chapter 223 in the table of chapters of subtitle V of
3 title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-
4 lows:

“223. CAPITAL GRANTS FOR RAILROAD TRACK22301”.

