

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 547

To encourage energy conservation through bicycling.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2003

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

A BILL

To encourage energy conservation through bicycling.

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. CONSERVE BY BICYCLING PROGRAM.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
6 the Conserve by Bicycling Program established by
7 subsection (b).

8 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Transportation.

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
2 the Department of Transportation a program to be known
3 as the “Conserve by Bicycling Program”.

4 (c) PROJECTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program,
6 the Secretary shall establish not more than 10 pilot
7 projects that are—

8 (A) dispersed geographically throughout
9 the United States; and

10 (B) designed to conserve energy resources
11 by encouraging the use of bicycles in place of
12 motor vehicles.

13 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot project described
14 in paragraph (1) shall—

15 (A) use education and marketing to con-
16 vert motor vehicle trips to bicycle trips;

17 (B) document project results and energy
18 savings (in estimated units of energy con-
19 served);

20 (C) facilitate partnerships among inter-
21 ested parties in at least 2 of the fields of—

22 (i) transportation;

23 (ii) law enforcement;

24 (iii) education;

25 (iv) public health;

1 (v) environment; and

2 (vi) energy;

3 (D) maximize bicycle facility investments;

4 (E) demonstrate methods that may be
5 used in other regions of the United States; and

6 (F) facilitate the continuation of ongoing
7 programs that are sustained by local resources.

8 (3) COST SHARING.—At least 20 percent of the
9 cost of each pilot project described in paragraph (1)
10 shall be provided from State or local sources.

11 (d) ENERGY AND BICYCLING RESEARCH STUDY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 shall enter into a contract with the National Acad-
15 emy of Sciences for, and the National Academy of
16 Sciences shall conduct and submit to Congress a re-
17 port on, a study on the feasibility of converting
18 motor vehicle trips to bicycle trips.

19 (2) COMPONENTS.—The study shall—

20 (A) document the results or progress of
21 the pilot projects under subsection (b);

22 (B) determine the type and duration of
23 motor vehicle trips that people in the United
24 States may feasibly make by bicycle, taking into
25 consideration factors such as—

- 1 (i) weather;
- 2 (ii) land use and traffic patterns;
- 3 (iii) the carrying capacity of bicycles;
- 4 and
- 5 (iv) bicycle infrastructure;
- 6 (C) determine any energy savings that
- 7 would result from the conversion of motor vehi-
- 8 cle trips to bicycle trips;
- 9 (D) include a cost-benefit analysis of bicy-
- 10 cle infrastructure investments; and
- 11 (E) include a description of any factors
- 12 that would encourage more motor vehicle trips
- 13 to be replaced with bicycle trips.

14 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is

15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

16 \$6,200,000, to remain available until expended, of

17 which—

- 18 (1) \$5,150,000 shall be used to carry out pilot
- 19 projects described in subsection (c);
- 20 (2) \$300,000 shall be used by the Secretary to
- 21 coordinate, publicize, and disseminate the results of
- 22 the program; and
- 23 (3) \$750,000 shall be used to carry out sub-
- 24 section (e).

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