

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2004

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a demonstration project to begin correcting structural bridge deficiencies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2005

Mr. VITTER 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 establish a demonstration project to begin correcting structural bridge deficiencies.

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 “Bridge Safety and Re-
5 pair Demonstration Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) 590,750 bridges in the United States are a
9 vital link in a seamless and efficient transportation

1 system, connecting communities, States, and re-
2 gions;

3 (2) 14 percent of all bridges in the United
4 States that are 20 feet or longer are structurally de-
5 ficient;

6 (3) as of the date of enactment of this Act, the
7 cost of correcting all bridge deficiencies in the
8 United States is \$136,000,000,000;

9 (4) faced with budget cutbacks, many States
10 are struggling to maintain an acceptable schedule of
11 maintenance, repair, and replacement of roads and
12 bridges;

13 (5) to begin correcting structural bridge defi-
14 ciencies, a demonstration program is necessary, be-
15 ginning with States that have significant numbers of
16 structurally deficient bridges; and

17 (6) 33 percent of the bridges in the State of
18 Louisiana, and a significant percentage of bridges in
19 each of the States of Oklahoma, Rhode Island,
20 Pennsylvania, Missouri, Mississippi, New York,
21 Vermont, West Virginia, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and
22 Maine are structurally deficient or functionally obso-
23 lete.

1 **SEC. 3. RURAL DEVELOPMENT BRIDGE REPAIR PROGRAM.**

2 Section 144 of title 23, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (q) as sub-
5 section (r); and

6 (2) by adding after subsection (p) the following:

7 “(q) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
9 grants to the State departments of transportation
10 for each of the States of Oklahoma, Rhode Island,
11 Pennsylvania, Missouri, Mississippi, New York,
12 Vermont, West Virginia, Hawaii, Massachusetts,
13 Maine, and Louisiana to provide for the rehabilita-
14 tion of the most structurally deficient off-system
15 bridges in those States.

16 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than October 31,
17 2006, and annually thereafter, each of the State de-
18 partments of transportation referred to in paragraph
19 (1) shall submit to Congress a report describing the
20 number of bridges and extent of corrected defi-
21 ciencies made in the applicable State during the pre-
22 ceding fiscal year.

23 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
24 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
25 this subsection—

26 “(A) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

- 1 “(B) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2007; and
- 2 “(C) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.”.

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