

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4104

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish and carry out a highway emergency responders safety grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Mr. ELLSWORTH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish and carry out a highway emergency responders safety grant 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 “Emergency Responders
5 Highway Safety Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. HIGHWAY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS SAFETY**
7 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
9 tation shall establish and carry out a highway emergency

1 responders safety grant program (in this section referred
2 to as the “program”).

3 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the pro-
4 gram, the Secretary is authorized to make grants to non-
5 profit and not-for-profit organizations (including organiza-
6 tions partnered with local government entities) for
7 projects and activities—

8 (1) to increase awareness of State laws that re-
9 quire a motorist to change lanes or reduce speed if
10 passing a highway emergency responder, including
11 the penalties for noncompliance with such laws; and

12 (2) to provide highway emergency responders
13 with training on the prevention of injuries and fa-
14 talities resulting from roadside collisions.

15 (c) ADVISORY GROUP.—In carrying out the program,
16 the Secretary shall establish a multidisciplinary advisory
17 group to make recommendations relating to program im-
18 plementation, including recommendations with respect to
19 the criteria for awarding grants under the program. The
20 advisory group shall include, at a minimum, a member
21 from a national organization representing each employ-
22 ment category specified in subsection (e).

23 (d) INCIDENT TRACKING AND REPORT TO CON-
24 GRESS.—

1 (1) INCIDENT TRACKING.—The Secretary shall
2 establish and administer an incident reporting sys-
3 tem to compile information with respect to roadside
4 collisions throughout the United States involving
5 highway emergency responders.

6 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one
7 year after the date of enactment of this Act and an-
8 nually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
9 gress a report on the number of highway emergency
10 responders injured or killed in roadside collisions in
11 each State during the year preceding such report
12 and on the status and content of State laws relating
13 to highway emergency responder safety.

14 (e) HIGHWAY EMERGENCY RESPONDER DEFINED.—
15 In this section, the term “highway emergency responder”
16 means an individual who is any of the following:

- 17 (1) A law enforcement officer.
18 (2) A firefighter.
19 (3) An emergency medical service provider.
20 (4) A maintenance and operations worker.
21 (5) A tow truck or recovery operator.

22 (f) FUNDING.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
24 appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund (other
25 than the Mass Transit Account) to carry out this

1 section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010
2 through 2015.

3 (2) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Funds made
4 available to carry out this section shall be available
5 for obligation and administered in the same manner
6 as if the funds were apportioned under chapter 1 of
7 title 23, United States Code.

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