

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7869

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national bridge replacement and improvement program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2020

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national bridge replacement and improvement 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 “National Bridge Re-
5 placement and Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVE-**
7 **MENT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
10 portation shall establish a national bridge replacement and

1 improvement program (in this section referred to as the
2 “Program”) to assist safety improvements for high-risk
3 intersections and interchanges.

4 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Pro-
5 gram, the Secretary may make grants on a competitive
6 basis to covered entities.

7 (c) PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may
8 only make a grant under the Program to assist a project
9 that—

10 (1) is a bridge on a Federal-aid highway that
11 is eligible for funding under title 23, United States
12 Code; and

13 (2) will—

14 (A) restore or increase the structural ca-
15 pacity of the bridge;

16 (B) correct a major safety defect of the
17 bridge; or

18 (C) replace an existing bridge with a new
19 bridge that—

20 (i) is in the same general traffic cor-
21 ridor as the bridge being replaced, as de-
22 termined by the Secretary; and

23 (ii) meets the requirements of sub-
24 paragraph (A) or (B).

1 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
2 the Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Sec-
3 retary an application in such form, at such time, and con-
4 taining such information as the Secretary determines is
5 appropriate.

6 (e) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount provided to
7 a covered entity in a fiscal year through grants under the
8 Program may not exceed 5 percent of the amount made
9 available for all grants under the Program in that fiscal
10 year.

11 (f) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—At least 90 days be-
12 fore establishing the Program under subsection (a), the
13 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report detailing the
14 selection process the Secretary shall use in making grants
15 under the Program.

16 (g) COVERED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the
17 term “covered entity” means any of the following:

18 (1) A State government entity.

19 (2) A local government entity.

20 (3) A territory of the United States.

21 (4) A Tribal government.

22 (5) A metropolitan planning organization.

23 (6) Any entity composed of 2 or more entities
24 described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

25 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
2 appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other
3 than the Mass Transit Account) to carry out the
4 Program \$1,000,000,000 for each fiscal year.

5 (2) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 23, UNITED
6 STATES CODE.—Funds authorized to be appro-
7 priated by paragraph (1) shall—

8 (A) be available for obligation in the same
9 manner as if those funds were apportioned
10 under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code,
11 except that the Federal share of the cost of a
12 project or activity carried out using such funds
13 shall be 80 percent; and

14 (B) remain available until expended and
15 not be transferable.

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