

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2700

To amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for efforts relating to Move Over laws, to amend title 49, United States Code, to require crash avoidance technology on motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 24, 2019

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

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for efforts relating to Move Over laws, to amend title 49, United States Code, to require crash avoidance technology on motor vehicles, 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 “Protecting Roadside
5 First Responders Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MOVE OVER LAWS.**

2 (a) HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS.—Section 402 of
3 title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 “(o) MOVE OVER LAWS.—

6 “(1) DEFINITION OF MOVE OVER LAW.—In this
7 subsection, the term ‘Move Over law’ means a State
8 law intended to ensure first responder and motorist
9 safety by requiring motorists to change lanes or slow
10 down when approaching an authorized emergency
11 vehicle that is parked or otherwise stopped on a
12 roadway.

13 “(2) COMPLIANCE WITH MOVE OVER LAWS.—
14 For each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, subject
15 to the requirements of the highway safety plan of a
16 State under subsection (k), as approved by the Sec-
17 retary, a State may use a portion of the amounts re-
18 ceived under this section to implement statewide ef-
19 forts to improve compliance with Move Over laws in
20 the State.

21 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Statewide efforts under
22 paragraph (2) may include—

23 “(A) purchasing and deploying digital alert
24 technology that is capable of sending alerts to
25 civilian drivers to protect first responders on
26 the scene and en route; and

1 “(B) educating the public about Move Over
 2 laws in the State through public information
 3 campaigns.”.

4 (b) STUDY ON MOVE OVER LAW PUBLIC AWARE-
 5 NESS CAMPAIGNS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transpor-
 7 tation shall seek to enter into an agreement with the
 8 National Academy of Sciences under which the Na-
 9 tional Academy of Sciences shall carry out a study
 10 on the efficacy of Move Over laws (as defined in sec-
 11 tion 402(o) of title 23, United States Code) and re-
 12 lated public awareness campaigns.

13 (2) REPORT.—On the completion of the report
 14 under paragraph (1), the National Academy of
 15 Sciences shall submit to the Secretary of Transpor-
 16 tation and to Congress a report on—

17 (A) the findings of the study; and

18 (B) any recommendations to improve pub-
 19 lic awareness campaigns related to the laws de-
 20 scribed in that paragraph.

21 (c) NATIONAL PRIORITY SAFETY PROGRAMS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 405 of title 23,
 23 United States Code, is amended—

24 (A) in subsection (a)—

1 (i) in paragraph (6), by striking “5”
 2 and inserting “4”;

3 (ii) by redesignating paragraphs (8)
 4 through (10) as paragraphs (9) through
 5 (11), respectively; and

6 (iii) by inserting after paragraph (7)
 7 the following:

8 “(8) PREVENTING ROADSIDE DEATHS.—In each
 9 fiscal year, 1 percent of the funds provided under
 10 this section shall be allocated among States that
 11 meet requirements with respect to preventing road-
 12 side deaths (as described in subsection (i)).”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(i) PREVENTING ROADSIDE DEATHS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
 16 grants to States to prevent death and injury from
 17 crashes involving vehicles striking vehicles and indi-
 18 viduals stopped at the roadside.

19 “(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
 20 the cost of carrying out an activity funded through
 21 a grant under this subsection may not exceed 80
 22 percent.

23 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—A State shall receive a
 24 grant under this subsection in a fiscal year if the
 25 State submits to the Secretary a plan that describes

1 how the State will use funds provided under the
2 grant, in accordance with paragraph (4).

3 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received by a
4 State under this subsection shall be used by the
5 State—

6 “(A) to purchase and deploy digital alert
7 technology (as described in section 4(b) of the
8 Protecting Roadside First Responders Act);

9 “(B) to educate the public about the safety
10 of vehicles and individuals stopped at the road-
11 side in the State through public information
12 campaigns for the purpose of reducing roadside
13 deaths and injury;

14 “(C) for law enforcement costs related to
15 enforcing State laws to protect the safety of ve-
16 hicles and individuals stopped at the roadside;
17 and

18 “(D) for programs to identify, collect, and
19 report data to State and local government agen-
20 cies relating to crashes involving vehicles and
21 individuals stopped at the roadside.

22 “(5) GRANT AMOUNT.—The allocation of grant
23 funds to a State under this subsection for a fiscal
24 year shall be in proportion to the apportionment of
25 that State under section 402 for fiscal year 2009.”.

1 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO FUND-
 2 ING.—It is the sense of Congress that the national
 3 priority program for preventing roadside deaths
 4 under subsections (a)(8) and (i) of section 405 of
 5 title 23, United States Code, should receive new and
 6 additional funding in comparison to the funding level
 7 for all national priority programs under section 405
 8 of title 23, United States Code, for fiscal year 2020.

9 **SEC. 3. CRASH AVOIDANCE TECHNOLOGY.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 301 of
 11 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 12 end the following:

13 **“§ 30129. Crash avoidance technology**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
 15 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue
 16 a final rule to establish minimum performance standards
 17 with respect to crash avoidance technology and to require
 18 that all motor vehicles manufactured for sale in the United
 19 States on or after the compliance date under subsection
 20 (b) are equipped with—

21 “(1) a forward collision warning and automatic
 22 emergency braking system that—

23 “(A) alerts the driver if the distance to a
 24 vehicle ahead or object in the path of travel

1 ahead is closing too quickly and a collision is
2 imminent; and

3 “(B) automatically applies the brakes if
4 the driver fails to do so;

5 “(2) a lane departure warning and lane keeping
6 assist system that—

7 “(A) warns the driver to maintain the lane
8 of travel; and

9 “(B) corrects the course of travel if the
10 driver fails to do so; and

11 “(3) a blind zone detection system that—

12 “(A) warns the driver if another vehicle or
13 road user is in the blind zone of the vehicle; and

14 “(B) provides an additional alert if the
15 driver attempts to change the course of travel
16 while another vehicle or road user is in the
17 blind zone of the vehicle.

18 “(b) COMPLIANCE DATE.—Compliance with the final
19 rule under subsection (a) shall be required beginning for
20 the model year that begins not later than 2 years after
21 the date on which the final rule is published in the Federal
22 Register.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for sub-
24 chapter II of chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code,

1 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section
 2 30128 the following:

“30129. Crash avoidance technology.”.

3 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL VEHICLE FLEETS.**

4 (a) CRASH AVOIDANCE TECHNOLOGY.—Not later
 5 than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in
 6 accordance with section 30129 of title 49, United States
 7 Code, the head of each Federal agency shall ensure that
 8 each new vehicle purchased or leased as part of a Federal
 9 fleet of the agency is equipped with—

10 (1) a forward collision warning and automatic
 11 emergency braking system that—

12 (A) alerts the driver if the distance to a ve-
 13 hicle ahead or object in the path of travel ahead
 14 is closing too quickly and a collision is immi-
 15 nent; and

16 (B) automatically applies the brakes if the
 17 driver fails to do so;

18 (2) a lane departure warning and lane keeping
 19 assist system that—

20 (A) warns the driver to maintain the lane
 21 of travel; and

22 (B) corrects the course of travel if the
 23 driver fails to do so; and

24 (3) a blind zone detection system that—

1 (A) warns the driver if another vehicle or
2 road user is in the blind zone of the vehicle; and

3 (B) provides an additional alert if the driv-
4 er attempts to change the course of travel while
5 another vehicle or road user is in the blind zone
6 of the vehicle.

7 (b) DIGITAL ALERT TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than
8 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the head
9 of each Federal agency shall ensure that each vehicle in
10 a Federal fleet of the agency—

11 (1) if the vehicle is used for emergency response
12 activities, is equipped with digital alert technology
13 that is capable of sending alerts to civilian drivers
14 to protect first responders on the scene and en
15 route; and

16 (2) is equipped with digital alert technology
17 (which may be provided by an aftermarket device)
18 that is capable of receiving alerts regarding nearby
19 first responders.

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