

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4338

To amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that States set aside certain funds for construction and operational improvements on high risk rural roads, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

Ms. FINKENAUER (for herself and Mr. WESTERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that States set aside certain funds for construction and operational improvements on high risk rural roads, 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 “Rural Road Safety
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 148 of title 23, United
3 States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (g)(1)—

5 (A) by striking “If the fatality rate” and
6 inserting “(A) IN GENERAL—If the fatality
7 rate”;

8 (B) by striking “for fiscal year 2009” and
9 all that follows through the period at the end
10 and inserting “for the previous fiscal year for
11 high risk rural roads under subsection (l).”;
12 and

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

14 “(B) TREATMENT OF PROJECTS.—Not-
15 withstanding any other provision of law,
16 projects carried out under this paragraph shall
17 be treated as projects on a Federal-aid highway
18 under this chapter.”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(l) HIGH RISK RURAL ROADS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appor-
22 tioned to a State for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal
23 year thereafter under this section, the State shall
24 obligate for construction and operational improve-
25 ments on high risk rural roads an amount that is

1 not less than 7.5 percent of such amount appor-
2 tioned for such fiscal year.

3 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—A State may use funds
4 apportioned to the State pursuant to this subsection
5 for any project under this section if the State cer-
6 tifies to the Secretary that the State has met all of
7 State needs for construction and operational im-
8 provements on high risk rural roads.

9 “(3) TREATMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND
10 OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS.—Notwithstanding
11 any other provision of law, construction and oper-
12 ational improvements under this subsection shall be
13 treated as a project on a Federal-aid highway under
14 this chapter.”.

15 (b) UPDATE OF HIGH RISK RURAL ROADS BEST
16 PRACTICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
17 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation
18 shall submit to Congress an update to the manual de-
19 scribed in section 1112 of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 148 note)
20 to include any best practices not listed in such manual
21 for communities to reduce fatalities on rural roads.

22 (c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
24 of the United States shall submit to Congress an update
25 to the report published by the Government Accountability

1 Office on May 28, 2004, titled “Highway Safety: Federal
2 and State Efforts to Address Rural Road Safety Chal-
3 lenges” describing—

4 (1) ongoing funding and policy challenges to
5 addressing rural road safety; and

6 (2) successful risk mitigation measures taken
7 on the Federal and State levels.

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