

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 195

To amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to provide States applying for distracted driving grants an explanation of the eligibility decision with respect to the State, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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 require the Secretary of Transportation to provide States applying for distracted driving grants an explanation of the eligibility decision with respect to the State, 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 “States Afforded Fund-
5 ing Extensions To Oppose Driving Recklessly In Vehicular
6 Engagements Act” or the “SAFE TO DRIVE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PRIORITY SAFETY PROGRAMS.**

2 Section 405(e) of title 23, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(6) ADDITIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING
7 GRANTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-
9 graph (1), the Secretary shall use up to 25 per-
10 cent of the amounts available for grants under
11 this subsection to award grants to any State
12 that—

13 “(i) is otherwise ineligible for a grant
14 under this subsection; and

15 “(ii) certifies that the State has en-
16 acted a statute that—

17 “(I) is applicable to drivers of all
18 ages;

19 “(II) makes a violation of the
20 statute a primary offense; and

21 “(III) prohibits—

22 “(aa) texting; or

23 “(bb) non-navigational view-
24 ing of a personal wireless com-
25 munications device.

1 “(B) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Notwith-
 2 standing paragraph (5), amounts received by a
 3 State under subparagraph (A) may be used for
 4 activities related to the enforcement of dis-
 5 tracted driving laws, including for public infor-
 6 mation and awareness purposes.”;

7 (2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
 8 graph (10); and

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 “(9) DETERMINATIONS OF GRANT ELIGI-
 12 BILITY.—

13 “(A) EXPLANATION OF DETERMINA-
 14 TION.—In making an eligibility determination
 15 in granting or denying an application of a State
 16 for a grant under this subsection, the Secretary
 17 shall provide each applicant State with an ex-
 18 planation of that determination, including an
 19 explanation of whether each section of the stat-
 20 ute submitted with the application met or did
 21 not meet the requirements for a grant under
 22 this subsection.

23 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF DETERMINATION.—
 24 Not later than 60 days after granting or deny-
 25 ing an application for a grant under this sub-

1 section, the Secretary shall make the expla-
2 nation under subparagraph (A) publicly avail-
3 able on the website of the Department of
4 Transportation.”.

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