

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2512

To establish an emergency transportation safety fund for the reconstruction of bridges along the Interstate Highway System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2014

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish an emergency transportation safety fund for the reconstruction of bridges along the Interstate Highway System, 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 Interstate
5 Bridge Safety Fund Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Davis-Bacon Act requires that workers
9 on all federally funded or federally assisted construc-

1 tion projects be paid what is commonly referred to
2 as a prevailing wage, as calculated by the Wage and
3 Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

4 (2) According to the Congressional Budget Of-
5 fice, if the Davis-Bacon Act were repealed, the Fed-
6 eral Government could save an estimated
7 \$12,700,000,000 in discretionary outlays from 2015
8 through 2023.

9 (3) These savings could be redirected to the re-
10 construction of closed and functionally obsolete
11 bridges along the Interstate Highway System, which
12 would improve highway safety and interstate com-
13 merce.

14 **TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT AND** 15 **FUNDING**

16 **SEC. 101. REPEAL OF DAVIS-BACON ACT OF 1931 WAGE RE-** 17 **QUIREMENTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 31 of
19 title 40, United States Code (40 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.), is
20 repealed.

21 (b) REFERENCE.—Beginning on the date of the en-
22 actment of this Act, any reference in any law to a wage
23 requirement under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title
24 40, United States Code, shall be null and void.

1 **SEC. 102. EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY FUND.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
3 Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known
4 as the “Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund”.

5 (b) TRANSFERS TO EMERGENCY INTERSTATE
6 BRIDGE SAFETY FUND.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
8 ury shall regularly transfer amounts equal to the
9 savings achieved through the repeal of the wage re-
10 quirements under subsection (a) from the capital
11 budgets of each affected Federal agency to the
12 Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund.

13 (2) EMERGENCY RELIEF EXPENDITURES.—Sec-
14 tion 125(c) of title 23, United States Code, is
15 amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(3) EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY
17 FUND.—Amounts deposited into the Emergency
18 Interstate Bridge Safety Fund established under
19 section 102(a) of the Emergency Interstate Bridge
20 Safety Fund Act are authorized to be obligated to
21 carry out, in priority order, the projects on the cur-
22 rent list compiled by the Secretary under section
23 201(b)(1) of such Act that meet the eligibility re-
24 quirements set forth in subsection (a).”.

1 **TITLE II—EMERGENCY INTER-**
2 **STATE BRIDGE SAFETY PRI-**
3 **ORITY LIST**

4 **SEC. 201. EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE PRIORITIES.**

5 (a) LIST.—The Secretary of Transportation, in con-
6 sultation with a representative sample of State and local
7 government transportation officials, shall compile a
8 prioritized list of emergency interstate bridge projects,
9 which will guide the allocation of funding to the States
10 from the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund estab-
11 lished under section 102.

12 (b) CRITERIA.—In compiling the list under sub-
13 section (a), the Secretary of Transportation, in addition
14 to any other criteria established by the Secretary, shall
15 rank the emergency interstate bridge projects in descend-
16 ing order, beginning with projects that—

17 (1) are part of the Federal interstate highway
18 system;

19 (2) involve a bridge that is closed or deemed
20 functionally obsolete by the Federal Highway Ad-
21 ministration for safety reasons;

22 (3) have a significant impact on interstate com-
23 merce;

24 (4) would affect a significant volume of traffic;
25 and

1 (5) have the greatest overall value to the sur-
2 rounding community.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
5 tation shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

6 (1) a prioritized list of emergency interstate
7 bridge projects to be funded through the Emergency
8 Interstate Bridge Safety Fund; and

9 (2) a description of the criteria used to estab-
10 lish the list referred to in paragraph (1).

11 (d) QUARTERLY UPDATES.—Not less frequently than
12 4 times per year, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

13 (1) update the report submitted pursuant to
14 subsection (c);

15 (2) send a copy of the report to Congress; and

16 (3) make a copy of the report available to the
17 public through the Department of Transportation’s
18 website.

○