

SB-36

Making appropriations to improve rural transportation and setting standards for rural healthcare accessibility.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Rosenbaum of Vermont introduced the following bill;

A BILL

Making appropriations to improve rural transportation and setting standards for rural healthcare accessibility.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Infrastructure Act of 2021".

Section 2. APPROPRIATION OF RURAL TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

There are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated-

Such sums as are necessary for the establishment of daily bus routes in all counties that do not currently have daily bus routes, in the form of federal grants administered by the United States Department of Transportation, available to both municipalities and state governments.

Such sums as are necessary to subsidize fifty-percent of the expansion costs and ten-percent of the operation costs of private commuter rail corporations into rural markets, in the form of federal grants

and subsidies administered by the United States Department of Transportation.

Such sums as are necessary for-

The reimbursement of up to fifteen million dollars of rural ride-sharing commuter costs nationwide in rural areas to commuters who incur those costs.

The reimbursement of up to ten million dollars of demand-response public transportation, or paratransit, commuter costs nationwide in rural areas to commuters who incur those costs.

The reimbursement of municipalities who incur costs in excess of ten-percent of their annual budget as a result of executing the standards of Section 3.

Section 3. RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Federal funding for non-essential services may be withheld against each municipality in a rural area annually that does not make sure of the presence of a functioning staffed ambulance within a 25 mile radius of the municipal seat of government.

Section 4. APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO REPAIR BRIDGES IN RURAL AREAS

There are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated-

Such funds as are necessary to complete an assessment through the Federal Highway Administration to determine which bridges in rural areas are structurally unsound, damaged, or otherwise in need of maintenance or repairs.

Such funds as are necessary to either replace, repair, or remove all bridges in rural areas are structurally unsound, damaged, or otherwise unsuitable for continued use. These appropriations shall not exceed \$16,350,000,000.

Section 5. TERMINATION

Appropriations and funds made available in this Act will be made available until either:

Their maximum expenditure is reached.

Five years elapse after the passage of this Act.

Section 6. RENEWAL

Appropriations and funds made available in this Act may be extended by five years after five years elapse after the passage of this Act by an act of Congress.

Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

All sections shall take effect on August 1, 2021 with the exception of the provisions outlined in Section 3 which shall take effect no sooner than 2 years after passage of this legislation.