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Research and Innovative Technology Administration Reauthorization Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Dec 7, 2011

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 541.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 541. (Nov 13, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/1953>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Dec 7, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Nov 13, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 14	Related bill	Mar 21, 2012: Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Science, Space, and Technology, the Budget, Oversight and Government Reform, Financial Services, Education and the Workforce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

Research and Innovative Technology Administration Reauthorization Act of 2011 - (Sec. 2) Revises the National Cooperative Freight Transportation Research program. Includes as one of the governing elements of the program that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) coordinate research agendas, research project selections, and competitions across all NAS transportation-related cooperative research programs to ensure program efficiency, effectiveness, and sharing of research findings.

(Sec. 3) Directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Multimodal Innovative Research Program in the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) to support key partnerships between the Department of Transportation (DOT) and other federal agencies in order to leverage their investments in transportation research and technology developments to address transportation problems at modal interfaces or affecting more than one transportation mode. Requires the Program, moreover, to award contracts or cooperative agreements competitively for advanced multimodal transportation research to facilitate practical innovative approaches to solve transportation problems.

(Sec. 4) Establishes in RITA the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), headed by a Director. (Actually, BTS was created in 1992 under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act [ISTEA] and later transferred to become part of RITA on February 20, 2005.)

Requires the BTS Director to establish an intermodal transportation database for all modes of transportation.

Establishes in the BTS a National Transportation Library to: (1) support the information management and decisionmaking needs of transportation at federal, state, and local levels; and (2) serve as a central depository for DOT research results and technical publications.

Requires the BTS Director to maintain an Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics (ACTS).

Prohibits certain disclosures by a BTS officer, employee, or contractor of statistical transportation information that identifies individuals or organizations.

Requires the BTS Director to develop a national transportation atlas database composed of geospatial databases that depict: (1) transportation networks; (2) flows of people, goods, vehicles, and craft over the networks; and (3) social, economic, and environmental conditions that affect, or are affected by, the networks.

Authorizes the Secretary to award grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with, public and nonprofit private entities (including state transportation departments, metropolitan planning organizations, and institutions of higher education) for research and development relating to new methods of data collection, standardization, management, integration, dissemination, interpretation, and analysis.

Subjects to a \$500 fine an owner or person in charge of any company that neglects, or refuses when requested by the BTS Director, to answer completely all questions relating to the company or to make available company records or statistics. Increases such fine to \$10,000 for anyone who willfully gives a false answer to a question.

(Sec. 5) Directs the Secretary to report to Congress on the deployment of Gigahertz (GHz) vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications systems.

(Sec. 6) Authorizes the RITA Administrator to: (1) expend certain funds for necessary administrative expenses for the coordination, evaluation, and oversight of RITA programs; (2) carry out collaborative research and development with federal laboratories and agencies as well as non-federal entities (with a 50% or greater federal share), including the Transportation Research Board of the NAS National Research Council, state and local governments, foreign governments, colleges and universities, corporations, institutions, partnerships, sole proprietorships, and trade associations incorporated or established under state law.

(Sec. 7) Authorizes the Secretary to award competitive cash prizes to stimulate innovation in research, technology development, and prototype demonstration that have potential for application to the national transportation system.

(Sec. 9) Revises the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program.

Increases from \$250,000 to \$500,000 the amount of DOT funds the Secretary may use for each fiscal year to carry out the program on ITS outreach, websites, public relations, displays, tours, and brochures.

Authorizes the Secretary to develop and implement incentives to accelerate deployment of ITS technologies and services within all programs funded under this Act.

(Sec. 10) Directs the Secretary, after seeking ACTS recommendations, to establish the National Travel Data Program to collect essential national passenger and freight travel data to help guide transportation operations, policy, and investment decisions for federal, state, and local governments and the private sector. Makes certain funds available for each of FY2012-FY2013.

(Sec. 11) Reauthorizes appropriations out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for FY2012-FY2013 for RITA.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 13, 2012:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Rockefeller without amendment. With written report No. 112-236.
- **Nov 13, 2012:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 541.
- **Dec 14, 2011:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Dec 7, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 7, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.