

HR 1291

Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 4, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. (Mar 5, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1291>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Mar 4, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 5, 2015
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 5, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 532	Related bill	Feb 23, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Act of 2015

This bill authorizes appropriations for FY2016-FY2019 for the highway safety improvement program, with \$50 million set aside for each fiscal year for the Railway-Highway Crossings Program.

The limitation to three states per year is eliminated, so all states now become eligible for the award of Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety improvement grants to develop or continue enhanced public education and awareness activities, in combination with targeted law enforcement, to reduce traffic law violations at highway-rail grade crossings, as well as to prevent and reduce injuries and fatalities along railroad rights-of-way. The limitation on grant amounts awarded to a state is increased from \$250,000 to \$2.5 million.

Eligibility requirements are revised for the award of capital grants to states under the rail line relocation and improvement program.

Increased appropriations under the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 are authorized for FY2016-FY2019 for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to make grants to the Operation Lifesaver program.

The FRA shall hire:

- 16 full-time grade crossing safety managers to work with state and local officials to identify safety improvements to highway-rail grade crossings; and
- 8 trespass prevention managers to work with local governments, schools, businesses, and railroads to develop site-specific mitigation plans.

The Secretary of Transportation shall study the feasibility of requiring railroad carriers to provide additional means for the public to report problems at highway-rail grade crossings, including via the Internet and text messaging.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 5, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- **Mar 5, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.