

S 532

Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Feb 23, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Feb 23, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/532>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 23, 2015
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Feb 26, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 23, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1291	Related bill	Mar 5, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

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 railroads to provide additional means for the public to report problems at highway-rail grade crossings, including via a website and text messaging.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 23, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 23, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.