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A bill to establish a portal and database to receive and maintain information regarding blocked railroad-highway grade crossings and to require the Secretary of Transportation to evaluate the requirements of the railway-highway crossings program.

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 11, 2021

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. (Mar 11, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/700>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]

Party: Republican • **State:** NE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 11, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 11, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2016	Related bill	Dec 17, 2021: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 227.

Summary (as of Mar 11, 2021)

This bill provides statutory authority for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to establish and maintain a portal and corresponding database through which it shall receive information on blocked railroad-highway grade crossings as a three-year pilot program.

The FRA must use information from the database (1) to assist in identifying the locations and potential impacts of frequent and long-duration blocked railroad-highway grade crossings; (2) as a basis for outreach to communities, emergency responders, and railroads; and (3) to support collaboration in the prevention of incidents at railroad-highway grade crossings.

Additionally, the Department of Transportation must evaluate the requirements of its railway-highway crossing program to determine whether

- the program provides states sufficient flexibility to adequately address current and emerging grade-crossing safety issues,
- the structure of the program provides sufficient incentive and resources to states and local agencies to make changes at grade crossings that are most effective at reducing deaths and injuries,
- there are appropriate tools and resources to support states in using data-driven programs to determine the most cost-effective use of program funds, and
- any statutory changes are necessary to improve the effectiveness of the program.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 11, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 11, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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