

S 700

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.

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.