

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3503

To reauthorize and improve the wildlife crossings program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

A BILL

To reauthorize and improve the wildlife crossings program,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wildlife Road Crossing
5 Program Reauthorization Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. WILDLIFE CROSSINGS PROGRAM.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
9 appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other
10 than the Mass Transit Account) for the wildlife

1 crossings program under section 171 of title 23,
 2 United States Code, \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal
 3 years 2027 through 2031.

4 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other
 5 provision of law, amounts made available under
 6 paragraph (1) shall be available until expended.

7 (b) WILDLIFE CROSSINGS PROGRAM.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 171 of title 23,
 9 United States Code, is amended—

10 (A) in the section heading, by striking
 11 “**pilot**”;

12 (B) by striking “pilot” each place it ap-
 13 pears;

14 (C) by redesignating subsections (h) and
 15 (i) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

16 (D) by inserting after subsection (g) the
 17 following:

18 “(h) FEDERAL SHARE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—In the
 19 case of a grant under the program provided to an eligible
 20 entity described in subsection (c)(6), the Federal share of
 21 the cost of the project shall be 100 percent.

22 “(i) TRIBAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use an
 24 amount equal to not more than 0.5 percent of the
 25 amounts made available to carry out the program

1 for each fiscal year to improve the ability of eligible
 2 entities described in subsection (c)(6) to access fund-
 3 ing for projects under the program in an efficient
 4 and expeditious manner by providing to those enti-
 5 ties application assistance, technical assistance, and
 6 assistance in reducing the period of time between
 7 the selection of the project and the obligation of
 8 funds for the project.

9 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts used under
 10 paragraph (1) may be expended—

11 “(A) by the Secretary; or

12 “(B) through contracts with—

13 “(i) a Federal, Tribal, regional, or
 14 State government entity;

15 “(ii) a private entity; or

16 “(iii) a nonprofit entity.

17 “(j) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may
 18 retain not more than a total of 0.5 percent of the amounts
 19 made available to carry out the program for each fiscal
 20 year—

21 “(1) to review applications for grants under the
 22 program;

23 “(2) to obligate and administer grant awards
 24 selected under the program; and

25 “(3) to carry out the requirements of—

1 “(A) section 172; and

2 “(B) subsections (b)(6) and (i)(3) of sec-
3 tion 144.”.

4 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
5 chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amend-
6 ed by striking the item relating to section 171 and
7 inserting the following:

“171. Wildlife crossings program.”.

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