

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3726

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a Center of Excellence to advance rail research and development.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2021

Ms. NEWMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a Center of Excellence to advance rail research and development.

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. RAIL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
4 **OF EXCELLENCE.**

5 Section 20108 of title 49, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(d) RAIL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
8 OF EXCELLENCE.—

1 “(1) CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—The Secretary
2 shall establish a center of excellence to carry out re-
3 search and development that improves the safety, ef-
4 ficiency and reliability of passenger and freight rail
5 transportation.

6 “(2) SELECTION OF HOST INSTITUTION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 select an institution of higher education, or a
9 consortium of institutions of higher education,
10 to host and maintain the center of excellence
11 established under paragraph (1).

12 “(B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting a
13 such an institution, the Secretary shall—

14 “(i) give preference to applicants with
15 strong past performance related to rail re-
16 search, education, and workforce develop-
17 ment activities;

18 “(ii) consider the extent to which the
19 applicant would involve public and private
20 sector passenger and freight railroad oper-
21 ators; and

22 “(iii) consider the regional and na-
23 tional impacts of the applicant’s proposed
24 research and development activities.

1 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The institution of higher
2 education may use funds provided under this sub-
3 section to carry out basic and applied research, eval-
4 uation, education, workforce development, and train-
5 ing efforts related to safety, efficiency, reliability, re-
6 siliency, and sustainability of commuter rail, inter-
7 city high-speed rail, and freight rail transportation,
8 including advances in rolling stock, advanced posi-
9 tive train control, human factors, rail infrastructure,
10 shared corridors, grade crossing safety, inspection
11 technology, remote sensing, rail systems mainte-
12 nance, network resiliency, operational reliability, en-
13 ergy efficiency, and advanced technologies.

14 “(4) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a
15 grant under this subsection shall not exceed 50 per-
16 cent of the costs of establishing and operating the
17 center of excellence and related research activities
18 carried out by the grant recipient.

19 “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 “(A) FISCAL YEAR 2022.—There is author-
21 ized to be appropriated to the Secretary
22 \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2022 for a grant
23 under this subsection.

24 “(B) FISCAL YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2026.—

25 There are authorized to be appropriated to the

1 Secretary such sums as may be necessary for
2 each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for
3 a grant under this subsection.

4 “(C) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-
5 priated pursuant to this paragraph shall remain
6 available until expended.

7 “(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DE-
8 FINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘institution of
9 higher education’ has the meaning given the term in
10 section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
11 (20 U.S.C. 1001).”.

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