June 19, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

11259

The Secretary of Transportation shall provide under section 104 of title 49, United States Code, for the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on noise impacts of railroad operations, including idling train engines on the quality of life of nearby communities, the quality of life of the residents (including consideration of air pollutions), and safety, and to submit a report on the study to the Secretary. The report shall include recommendations for mitigation to combat rail noise, standards for determining when noise mitigation is required, needed changes in Federal law to give Federal, State, and local responsibility in combating railroad noise, and possible funding mechanisms for financing mitigation projects.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to Congress the report of the National Academy of Sciences on the results of the study under subsection (a).

SEC. 349. Within the funds made available in this Act, $10,000,000 shall be for the costs associated with construction of a third track on the Northeast Corridor between Danville and Central Falls, Rhode Island, with sufficient clearance to accommodate double stack freight cars, to be matched by the State of Rhode Island or its designee, to remain available until expended; $2,000,000 shall be for a joint United States-Canada commission to study the feasibility of connecting the rail systems of the two North American continental rail systems; $400,000 shall be allocated for passenger rail corridor planning activities to fund the preparation of a strategic plan for development of the Gulf Coast High Speed Rail Corridor; and $250,000 shall be available to the city of Traverse City, Michigan comprehensive transportation plan.

(1) The United States Coast Guard in 1999 saved approximately 3,000 lives in providing the essential service of maritime safety.
(2) The United States Coast Guard in 1999 prevented 20 shipments of cocaine, worth more than $150,000,000, from entering the United States in providing the essential service of maritime security.
(3) The United States Coast Guard in 1999 boarded more than 14,000 fishing vessels to check for safety and environmental laws in providing the essential service of maritime safety.
(4) The United States Coast Guard in 1999 ensured the safe passage of nearly 1,000,000 commercial vessel transits through congested harbors with vessel traffic services in providing the essential service of maritime mobility.
(5) The United States Coast Guard in 1999 sent international training teams to help more than 50 countries develop their maritime services in providing the essential service national defense.
(6) Each year, the United States Coast Guard ensures the safe passage of more than 200,000,000 tons of cargo cross the Great Lakes including iron ore, coal, and limestone. Shipping on the Great Lakes faces a unique challenge because the shipping season begins and ends in ice anywhere from 3 to 15 feet thick.

The ice-breaking vessel MACKINAW has an 85-foot icebreaking beam and is constantly used to maintain the Great Lakes waterways. The MACKINAW will end in 2006. Right now, without adequate funding, the United States Coast Guard would have to radically reduce the level of service it provides to the American public. The MACKINAW must be replaced.

Title IV

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

GIFTS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR REDUCTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT

For deposit of an additional amount for fiscal year 2000 into the account established under section 3113(d) of title 31, United States Code, to reduce the public debt, $12,200,000,000.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001.”

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 8

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 8 be placed on the Senate calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 2753

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2753, introduced earlier today by Senator DASCHEL and others, be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2753

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2753, introduced by Senator THOMPSON today, is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.