AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to undertake research and development in high-speed ground transportation, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, consistent with the objective of promoting a safe, adequate, economical, and efficient national transportation system, the Secretary of Commerce (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to undertake research and development in high-speed ground transportation, including, but not limited to, components such as materials, aerodynamics, vehicle propulsion, vehicle control, communications, and guideways.

SEC. 2. The Secretary is authorized to contract for demonstrations to determine the contributions that high-speed ground transportation could make to more efficient and economical intercity transportation systems. Such demonstrations shall be designed to measure and evaluate such factors as the public response to new equipment, higher speeds, variations in fares, improved comfort and convenience, and more frequent service. In connection with contracts for demonstrations under this section, the Secretary shall provide for financial participation by private industry to the maximum extent practicable.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to limit research and development carried out under the first section or demonstrations contracted for under section 2 to any particular mode of high-speed ground transportation.

SEC. 4. The Secretary is authorized to collect and collate transportation data, statistics, and other information which he determines will contribute to the improvement of the national transportation system. In carrying out this activity, the Secretary shall utilize the data, statistics, and other information available from Federal agencies and other sources of the greatest practicable extent. The data, statistics, and other information collected under this section shall be made available to other Federal agencies and to the public insofar as practicable.

SEC. 6. (a) There is hereby established in the Department of Commerce an advisory committee consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the Secretary without regard to the civil service laws. The Secretary shall designate one of the members of the Advisory Committee as its Chairman. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be selected from among leading authorities in the field of transportation.

(b) The Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretary with respect to policy matters arising in the administration of this Act, particularly with respect to research and development carried out under the first section and contracts for demonstrations entered into under section 2.

SEC. 6. (a) In carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this Act, the Secretary shall provide fair and equitable arrangements, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, to protect the interests of the
employees of any common carrier who are affected by any demonstration carried out under a contract between the Secretary and such carrier under such section. Such protective arrangements shall include, without being limited to, such provisions as may be necessary for (1) the preservation of rights, privileges, and benefits (including continuation of pension rights and benefits) to such employees under existing collective-bargaining agreements, or otherwise; (2) the continuation of collective-bargaining rights; (3) the protection of such individual employees against a worsening of their positions with respect to their employment as a result of such demonstration; (4) assurances of priority of reemployment of employees terminated or laid off as a result of such demonstration; and (5) paid training or retraining programs. Such arrangements shall include provisions protecting individual employees against a worsening of their positions with respect to their employment as the result of such demonstrations which shall in no event provide benefits less than those established pursuant to section 5(2)(f) of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 5). Any contract entered into pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of this Act shall specify the terms and conditions of such protective arrangements.

(b) The Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to insure that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction work financed with the assistance of funds received under any contract or agreement entered into under this Act shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended. The Secretary shall not enter into any such contract or agreement without first obtaining adequate assurance that required labor standards will be maintained upon the construction work. The Secretary of Labor shall have with respect to the labor standards specified in this subsection, the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (15 F.R. 3176; 64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. 133z-15), and section 2 of the Act of June 13, 1934, as amended (48 Stat. 948; 40 U.S.C. 276c).

Sec. 7. In exercising the authority granted in the first section and section 2 of this Act, the Secretary may lease, purchase, develop, test, and evaluate new facilities, equipment, techniques, and methods and conduct such other activities as may be necessary, but nothing in this Act shall be deemed to authorize the Secretary to acquire any interest in any line of railroad.

Sec. 8. (a) (1) In exercising the authority granted under this Act, the Secretary is authorized to enter into agreements and to contract with public or private agencies, institutions, organizations, corporations, and individuals, without regard to sections 3648 and 3709 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 529; 41 U.S.C. 5).

(2) To the maximum extent practicable, the private agencies, institutions, organizations, corporations, and individuals with which the Secretary enters into such agreements or contracts to carry out research and development under this Act shall be geographically distributed throughout the United States.

(3) Each agreement or contract entered into under this Act under other than competitive bidding procedures, as determined by the Secretary, shall provide that the Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, may, for the purpose of audit and examination, have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the parties to such agreement.
or contract which are pertinent to the operations or activities under such agreement or contract.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to appoint, subject to the civil service laws and regulations, such personnel as may be necessary to enable him to carry out efficiently his functions and responsibilities under this Act. The Secretary is further authorized to procure services as authorized by section 15 of the Act of August 3, 1946 (5 U.S.C. 55a), but at rates for individuals not to exceed $100 per diem, unless otherwise specified in an appropriation Act.

Sec. 9. In exercising the authority granted under this Act, the Secretary shall consult and cooperate, as he deems appropriate, with the Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency and other departments and agencies, Federal, State, and local. The Secretary shall further consult and cooperate, as he deems appropriate, with institutions and private industry.

Sec. 10. (a) The Secretary shall report to the President and the Congress not less often than annually with respect to activities carried out under this Act.

(b) The Secretary shall report to the President and the Congress the results of his evaluation of the research and development program and the demonstration program authorized by this Act, and shall make recommendations to the President and the Congress with respect to such future action as may be appropriate in the light of these results and their relationship to other modes of transportation in attaining the objective of promoting a safe, adequate, economical, and efficient national transportation system.

(c) The Secretary shall, if requested by any appropriate committee of the Senate or House of Representatives, furnish such committee with information concerning activities carried out under this Act and information obtained from research and development carried out with funds appropriated pursuant to this Act.

Sec. 11. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, but not to exceed $20,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966; $35,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967; and $35,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

Sec. 12. Except for section 4, this Act shall terminate on June 30, 1969. The termination of this Act shall not affect the disbursement of funds under, or the carrying out of, any contract commitment, or other obligation entered into pursuant to this Act prior to such date of termination.

Approved September 30, 1965.

Public Law 89-221

JOINT RESOLUTION

Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1966, and for other purposes.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 101 of the joint resolution approved June 30, 1965 (Public Law 89-58), as amended, is amended by adding a new subsection as follows: "(e) Such amounts as may be necessary for continuing Civil Supersonic Aircraft Development Activities which have been conducted in the fiscal year 1966 but at a rate for operations not in excess of the rate