

H.R. 5604, THE “SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SAVINGS ACT OF 2010”
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SUMMARY

H.R. 5604, the “Surface Transportation Savings Act of 2010”, **rescinds \$106.8 million** of contract authority from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These funds are not available for use by these agencies in fiscal year (FY) 2010, and H.R. 5604 rescinds these excess amounts. **The savings achieved from this legislation will reduce the Nation’s budget deficit.**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Safety Belt Performance Grants

H.R. 5604 rescinds \$81.0 million of contract authority from NHTSA’s safety belt performance grants program (23 U.S.C. 406).

The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (HIRE Act) (P.L. 111-147) provides \$124.5 million in FY 2010 to carry out this incentive grant program. This funding level is equal to the level provided by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU) (P.L. 109-59) in FY 2009.

According to NHTSA, only three states (Kansas, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts) are expected to qualify to receive an incentive grant under this program this year. Therefore, NHTSA requires no more than \$28.5 million in FY 2010 to carry out the authorized activities of this program, and the agency does not have the ability to redistribute unallocated funds.

These funds are not available for use by the agency in FY 2010, and H.R. 5604 rescinds the excess contract authority (\$81.0 million).¹

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Administrative Expenses and National Driver Register and Research and Development Programs

In addition, H.R. 5604 rescinds \$8.5 million of contract authority from NHTSA’s administrative expenses and National Driver Register and research and development programs.

¹ H.R. 4899, the “Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010”, as passed by the Senate on May 27, 2010, redirects \$15 million of contract authority from the safety belt performance grants program to NHTSA’s vehicle safety program. These funds are provided to conduct critical vehicle safety research, including a study of sudden unintended acceleration of motor vehicles. H.R. ____, the “Surface Transportation Savings Act of 2010”, does not affect this provision and these funds remain available for NHTSA’s vehicle safety program.

The HIRE Act provides funding for NHTSA's administrative expenses and these programs at levels greater than the funding levels provided by the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-117, Division A).

Specifically, H.R. 5604 rescinds:

- \$6.4 million of contract authority authorized for NHTSA's administrative expenses;
- \$1.8 million of contract authority authorized for NHTSA's highway safety research and development program; and
- \$78,000 of amounts authorized for NHTSA to carry out the National Driver Register.

These funds are not available for use by the agency in FY 2010, and H.R. 5604 rescinds the excess contract authority (\$8.5 million).

Transit Formula and Bus Grant Programs

Finally, H.R. 5604 rescinds \$17.4 million of contract authority from FTA's formula and bus grant programs.

The HIRE Act provides \$8.361 billion in FY 2010 to carry out FTA's formula and bus grant programs. This funding level is equal to the level provided by SAFETEA-LU in FY 2009. This funding level is \$17.4 million greater than the funding level provided by the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (division A of P.L. 111-117).

These funds are not available for use by the agency in FY 2010, and H.R. 5604 rescinds the excess contract authority (\$17.4 million).

SECTION-BY-SECTION OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short Title

Section 1 states that the Act may be referred to as "Surface Transportation Savings Act of 2010".

Sec. 2. Safety Belt Performance Grants

Section 2 rescinds \$80,994,029 of amounts authorized for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's safety belt performance grants in FY 2010. The amount rescinded under section 2 is reduced as necessary to ensure that \$28,505,971 is available to carry out the safety belt performance grants program in FY 2010.

Sec. 3. Administrative Expenses

Section 3 rescinds \$6,547,000 of amounts authorized for administrative and related operating expenses of NHTSA in FY 2010.

Sec. 4. National Driver Register

Section 4 rescinds \$78,000 of amounts authorized for NHTSA to carry out the National Driver Register in FY 2010.

Sec. 5. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Operations and Research

Section 5 rescinds \$1,829,000 of amounts authorized for the NHTSA's highway safety research and development program in FY 2010.

Sec. 6. Transit Formula and Bus Grants

Section 6 rescinds \$17,394,000 of amounts authorized for the Federal Transit Administration's formula programs and bus grants in FY 2010.