

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5124

To amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Southern New England Regional Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2019

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. COURTNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 40, United States Code, to establish a Southern New England Regional Commission, 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 “Southern New England
5 Regional Commission Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND RE-**
2 **GIONAL COMMISSION.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40,
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(4) The Southern New England Regional
7 Commission.”.

8 (b) PURPOSES FOR ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUC-
9 TURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—Section 15501(a) of such
10 title is amended to read as follows:

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may make grants
12 to States and local governments, Indian tribes, and public
13 and nonprofit organizations for projects, approved in ac-
14 cordance with section 15503—

15 “(1) to develop the transportation infrastruc-
16 ture of its region;

17 “(2) to develop the basic public infrastructure
18 of its region;

19 “(3) to develop the telecommunications infra-
20 structure of its region;

21 “(4) to assist its region in obtaining job skills
22 training, skills development and employment-related
23 education, entrepreneurship, technology, and busi-
24 ness development;

25 “(5) to provide assistance to severely economi-
26 cally distressed and underdeveloped areas of its re-

1 gion that lack financial resources for improving
2 basic health care and other public services;

3 “(6) to promote resource conservation, tourism,
4 recreation, and preservation of open space in a man-
5 ner consistent with economic development goals;

6 “(7) to promote the development of renewable
7 and alternative energy sources;

8 “(8) to support the maritime economy, includ-
9 ing boat and ship building and repair industries;

10 “(9) to assist in developing defense manufac-
11 turing industries;

12 “(10) to promote the adoption of composite and
13 other innovative materials in public transportation;

14 “(11) to grow the capacity for successful com-
15 munity economic development in its region; and

16 “(12) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this
17 subtitle.”.

18 (c) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter
20 157 of such title is amended by adding at the end
21 the following:

22 **“§ 15734. Southern New England Regional Commis-**
23 **sion**

24 “The region of the Southern New England Regional
25 Commission shall include the following counties:

1 “(1) RHODE ISLAND.—The counties of Provi-
 2 dence, Washington, Newport, and Bristol in the
 3 State of Rhode Island.

4 “(2) CONNECTICUT.—The counties of Hartford,
 5 New Haven, and New London in the State of Con-
 6 necticut.

7 “(3) MASSACHUSETTS.—The counties of
 8 Hampden and Bristol in the State of Massachu-
 9 setts.”.

10 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
 11 MENT.—The analysis for Subchapter II of chapter
 12 157 of such title is amended by adding at the end
 13 the following:

“15734. Southern New England Regional Commission.”.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The au-
 15 thorization of appropriations in section 15751 of title 40,
 16 United States Code, shall apply with respect to the South-
 17 ern New England Regional Commission beginning with
 18 fiscal year 2020.

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