

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2508

To amend title 40, United States Code, to promote regional economic and infrastructure development, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2018

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend title 40, United States Code, to promote regional economic and infrastructure development, 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 “Northern Border Re-
5 gional Commission Reauthorization Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF REGIONAL COM-**
 2 **MISSIONS.**

3 Section 15304(c)(3)(A) of title 40, United States
 4 Code, is amended by striking “unanimous” and inserting
 5 “majority”.

6 **SEC. 3. ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**
 7 **GRANTS.**

8 Section 15501 of title 40, United States Code, is
 9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at
 12 the end;

13 (B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as
 14 paragraph (9); and

15 (C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the
 16 following:

17 “(8) to grow the capacity for successful commu-
 18 nity economic development in its region; and”;

19 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “paragraphs
 20 (1) through (3)” and inserting “paragraph (1), (2),
 21 (3), or (7)”; and

22 (3) in subsection (f), by striking the period at
 23 the end and inserting “, except that financial assist-
 24 ance may be used as otherwise authorized by this
 25 subtitle to attract businesses to the region from out-
 26 side the United States.”.

1 **SEC. 4. STATE CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
4 means the Northern Border Regional Commission
5 established by section 15301(a)(3) of title 40,
6 United States Code.

7 (2) COMMISSION STATE.—The term “Commis-
8 sion State” means each of the States of Maine, New
9 Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

10 (3) ELIGIBLE COUNTY.—The term “eligible
11 county” means a county described in section 15733
12 of title 40, United States Code.

13 (4) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
14 the State capacity building grant program estab-
15 lished under subsection (b).

16 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
18 establish a State capacity building grant program to pro-
19 vide grants to Commission States to carry out the purpose
20 under subsection (c).

21 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to
22 support the efforts of Commission States—

23 (1) to better support business retention and ex-
24 pansion in eligible counties;

25 (2) to create programs to encourage job cre-
26 ation and workforce development;

1 (3) to prepare economic and infrastructure
2 plans for eligible counties;

3 (4) to expand access to high-speed broadband;

4 (5) to encourage initiatives that drive invest-
5 ments in transportation, water, wastewater, and
6 other critical infrastructure;

7 (6) to create initiatives to increase the effective-
8 ness of local or regional economic developers; and

9 (7) to implement new or innovative economic
10 development practices that will better position the
11 Commission States to compete in the global econ-
12 omy.

13 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds from a grant under
15 the program may be used to support a project, pro-
16 gram, or expense of the Commission State in an eli-
17 gible county.

18 (2) LIMITATION.—Funds from a grant under
19 the program shall not be used for—

20 (A) the purchase of furniture, fixtures, or
21 equipment; or

22 (B) the compensation of—

23 (i) any State member of the Commis-
24 sion (as described in section

1 15301(b)(1)(B) of title 40, United States
2 Code); or

3 (ii) any State alternate member of the
4 Commission (as described in section
5 15301(b)(2)(B) of title 40, United States
6 Code).

7 (e) ANNUAL WORK PLAN.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, before
9 providing a grant under the program, each Commis-
10 sion State shall provide to the Commission an an-
11 nual work plan that includes the proposed use of the
12 grant.

13 (2) APPROVAL.—No grant under the program
14 shall be provided to a Commission State unless the
15 Commission has approved the annual work plan of
16 the State.

17 (f) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant pro-
19 vided to a Commission State under the program
20 shall be an amount equal to the share of the State
21 of administrative expenses of the Commission for a
22 fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(c) of
23 title 40, United States Code).

24 (2) APPROVAL.—For each fiscal year, a grant
25 provided under the program shall be approved and

1 made available as part of the approval of the annual
2 budget of the Commission.

3 (g) GRANT AVAILABILITY.—Funds from a grant
4 under the program shall be available only during the fiscal
5 year for which the grant is provided.

6 (h) REPORT.—Each fiscal year, each Commission
7 State shall submit to the Commission and make publicly
8 available a report that describes the use of the grant funds
9 and the impact of the program in the State.

10 (i) FUNDING.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
12 appropriated such sums as the Commission deter-
13 mines to be necessary, subject to the condition that
14 the Commission may use not more than \$5,000,000
15 to carry out this section for any fiscal year.

16 (2) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
17 made available to carry out this section shall supple-
18 ment and not supplant funds made available for the
19 Commission and other activities of the Commission.

20 **SEC. 5. NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.**

21 Section 15733 of title 40, United States Code, is
22 amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (2)—

24 (A) by inserting “Belknap,” before “Car-
25 roll,”; and

1 (B) by inserting “Cheshire,” before
 2 “Coos,”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (4)—

4 (A) by inserting “Addison, Bennington,”
 5 before “Caledonia,”;

6 (B) by inserting “Chittenden,” before
 7 “Essex,”;

8 (C) by striking “and” and inserting “Or-
 9 ange,” and

10 (D) by inserting “, Rutland, Washington,
 11 Windham, and Windsor” after “Orleans”.

12 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 Section 15751(a) of title 40, United States Code, is
 14 amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

15 **SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

16 Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 of subtitle V of title 40,
 17 United States Code, are redesignated as chapters 151,
 18 153, 155, and 157, respectively.

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