

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2375

To amend title 40, United States Code, to relocate the headquarters of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2019

Mr. MANCHIN 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 relocate the headquarters of the Appalachian 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 “ARC Relocation Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. HEADQUARTERS OF THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL**
6 **COMMISSION.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) Senate Report 115–258, accompanying S.
9 2975 (115th Congress), contained bipartisan lan-
10 guage expressing a belief that “if the Appalachian

1 Regional Commission is going to move, it should
2 move to the State of West Virginia”;

3 (2) the greater Washington, DC, metropolitan
4 area accounts for 22 percent of the Federal work-
5 force, yet only accounts for less than 2 percent of
6 the population of the United States;

7 (3) the headquarters of the Delta Regional Au-
8 thority, the Denali Commission, and the Northern
9 Border Regional Commission are already
10 headquartered in their respective regions;

11 (4) headquartering a regional commission with-
12 in the jurisdiction of the commission can reduce ad-
13 ministrative overhead, increase accountability to the
14 people the commission was designed to serve, and
15 enhance confidence in the work of that commission;

16 (5) the Appalachian Regional Commission is an
17 economic development agency focused on the Appa-
18 lachian region and representing a partnership of
19 Federal, State, and local governments across 13
20 States;

21 (6) despite the reach of the Appalachian Re-
22 gional Commission across 13 States, West Virginia
23 remains the only State fully within the jurisdiction
24 of the Appalachian Regional Commission;

1 (7) West Virginia is located at the midpoint of
2 the Appalachian region;

3 (8) West Virginia is central to the creation of
4 the Appalachian Regional Commission;

5 (9) following the visit of President John F.
6 Kennedy to West Virginia during his presidential
7 campaign in 1960, he was moved by the poverty he
8 observed there and he worked to create the Appa-
9 lachian Regional Commission through an Act of
10 Congress in 1965;

11 (10) the Appalachian Regional Commission is
12 critical to assisting communities impacted by the de-
13 cline of the coal industry as well as the opioid crisis,
14 and no State has seen a greater impact from these
15 issues than West Virginia;

16 (11) one of the top goals of the Appalachian
17 Regional Commission is to spur economic opportuni-
18 ties in the Appalachian region by investing in strate-
19 gies that strengthen the economy of the region; and

20 (12) an effective way to achieve the goal re-
21 ferred to in paragraph (11) is to directly invest in
22 the region by relocating the workforce of the Appa-
23 lachian Regional Commission to the region itself.

1 (b) HEADQUARTERS.—Section 14301 of title 40,
2 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
3 following:

4 “(g) HEADQUARTERS.—The headquarters of the
5 Commission shall be located in the State of West Vir-
6 ginia.”.

7 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Federal Co-Chairman
8 of the Appalachian Regional Commission shall take such
9 actions as may be necessary to carry out the amendment
10 made by subsection (b).

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