

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5290

To establish a Military Community Infrastructure Program to provide grants for transportation infrastructure improvements in military communities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2014

Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. KILMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish a Military Community Infrastructure Program to provide grants for transportation infrastructure improvements in military communities, 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 “Creating Opportunities
5 for Military Members to Use Transportation Efficiently
6 Act of 2014” or the “COMMUTE Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. MILITARY COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
5 tablish a Military Community Infrastructure Program
6 under which the Secretary may provide grants to eligible
7 entities for transportation infrastructure improvement
8 projects in military communities.

9 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under
10 the Program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Sec-
11 retary an application at such time, in such form, and con-
12 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

13 (c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under the
15 Program may be used for transportation infrastruc-
16 ture improvement projects, including—

17 (A) the construction of roads;

18 (B) the construction of mass transit and
19 parking facilities;

20 (C) the construction of, or upgrades to, pe-
21 destrian access and bicycle access; and

22 (D) upgrades to public transportation sys-
23 tems.

24 (2) LOCATION.—To be eligible for a grant
25 under the Program, a project described in paragraph
26 (1) shall be—

1 (A) related to improving access to a mili-
2 tary installation, as determined by the Sec-
3 retary; and

4 (B) in a location that is—

5 (i) within or abutting an urbanized
6 area (as designated by the Bureau of the
7 Census); and

8 (ii) designated as a growth community
9 by the Office of Economic Adjustment.

10 (d) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants under
11 the Program, the Secretary shall give consideration to—

12 (1) the magnitude of the problem addressed by
13 the project;

14 (2) the proportion of the problem addressed by
15 the project that is caused by military installation
16 growth since the year 2000;

17 (3) the number of servicemembers and civilian
18 employees of the Department of Defense affected by
19 the problem addressed by the project;

20 (4) the size of the community affected by the
21 problem addressed by the project;

22 (5) the ability of the relevant eligible entity to
23 execute the project; and

24 (6) the extent to which the project resolves the
25 transportation problem addressed.

1 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
2 of a project carried out using grant amounts made avail-
3 able under the Program may not exceed 80 percent.

4 **SEC. 3. TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct
7 a traffic impact study for any urbanized area (as des-
8 ignated by the Bureau of the Census) that expects a sig-
9 nificant increase in traffic related to a military installation
10 within or abutting the urbanized area.

11 (b) CONTENTS.—A traffic impact study under sub-
12 section (a) shall determine any transportation improve-
13 ments needed because of an increase in the number of
14 military personnel, including study of commute sheds af-
15 fected by installation-related traffic.

16 (c) CONSULTATION.—In developing a traffic impact
17 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult
18 with—

19 (1) the metropolitan planning organization or
20 regional transportation planning organization with
21 jurisdiction over the urbanized area; and

22 (2) the commander of the appropriate military
23 installation.

24 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
2 ty” means—

3 (A) a State or political subdivision thereof;

4 (B) an owner or operator of public trans-
5 portation;

6 (C) a local governmental authority (as
7 such term is defined in section 5302 of title 49,
8 United States Code);

9 (D) a metropolitan planning organization;
10 or

11 (E) a regional transportation planning or-
12 ganization.

13 (2) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
14 AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGA-
15 NIZATION.—The terms “metropolitan planning orga-
16 nization” and “regional transportation planning or-
17 ganization” have the meanings given those terms in
18 section 134(b) of title 23, United States Code.

19 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Direc-
21 tor of the Office of Economic Adjustment.

22 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
23 the several States, the District of Columbia, and any
24 territory or possession of the United States.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated, to carry out
3 this Act, \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 and
4 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019,
5 to remain available until expended.

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