

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2433

To provide Federal support to increase public transportation ridership by college students.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2015

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To provide Federal support to increase public transportation ridership by college students.

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 “University Transit
5 Rider Innovation Program Act of 2015” or “UTRIP Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FORMULA GRANTS TO INCREASE PUBLIC TRANS-**
7 **PORTATION RIDERSHIP BY COLLEGE STU-**
8 **DENTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 of title 49, United
10 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by inserting after section 5307 the fol-
 2 lowing:

3 **“§ 5308. Formula grants to increase ridership by col-
 4 lege students**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 “(1) the term ‘covered student’ means an un-
 7 dergraduate or graduate student attending an insti-
 8 tution of higher education;

9 “(2) the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

10 “(A) a recipient or subrecipient that pro-
 11 vides covered students a discounted fare for
 12 public transportation that meets the require-
 13 ments under subsection (d)(1); or

14 “(B) a recipient that allocates amounts
 15 provided to the recipient under a grant under
 16 this section to a subrecipient described in sub-
 17 paragraph (A);

18 “(3) the term ‘institution of higher education’
 19 has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the
 20 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001);

21 “(4) the term ‘large urbanized area’ means an
 22 urbanized area with a population of not less than
 23 200,000 individuals, as determined by the Bureau of
 24 the Census;

1 “(5) the term ‘recipient’ means a designated re-
 2 cipient, a local governmental authority, or a State;

3 “(6) the term ‘small urbanized area’ means an
 4 urbanized area with a population of less than
 5 200,000 individuals, as determined by the Bureau of
 6 the Census; and

7 “(7) the term ‘subrecipient’ means a State or
 8 local governmental authority, a private nonprofit or-
 9 ganization, or an operator of public transportation
 10 services, including a private operator of public trans-
 11 portation services.

12 “(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

13 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make
 14 grants under this section to recipients that are eligi-
 15 ble entities to increase the use of public transpor-
 16 tation by covered students in accordance with sub-
 17 section (c).

18 “(2) SUBRECIPIENTS.—A recipient that re-
 19 ceives a grant under this section may allocate the
 20 amounts provided under the grant to subrecipients
 21 that are eligible entities to increase the use of public
 22 transportation by covered students in accordance
 23 with subsection (c).

24 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
 25 amounts provided under a grant under this section to—

1 “(1) offset decreased revenue resulting from
2 providing discounted fares to covered students;

3 “(2) provide general operating assistance to
4 public transportation services and routes designed to
5 better serve institutions of higher education; or

6 “(3) pay for capital costs associated with ex-
7 panding and maintaining public transportation serv-
8 ices and routes designed to serve institutions of
9 higher education.

10 “(d) DISCOUNTED FARE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to qualify as an
12 eligible entity described in subsection (a)(2)(A), a
13 recipient or subrecipient shall provide to covered stu-
14 dents a discounted fare for public transportation
15 that is—

16 “(A) not more than 75 percent of the fare;
17 and

18 “(B) applicable to both monthly and sin-
19 gle-ride fares.

20 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
21 paragraph (1) shall be construed to prohibit a recipi-
22 ent or subrecipient that, as of the date of enactment
23 of the University Transit Rider Innovation Program
24 Act of 2015, provides a discounted fare to covered
25 students that meets the requirements under para-

graph (1), including a discounted fare that is lower than 75 percent of the fare, from qualifying as an eligible entity described in subsection (a)(2)(A).

“(e) APPORTIONMENT AND TRANSFERS.—

“(1) FORMULA.—The Secretary shall apportion amounts made available to carry out this section as follows:

“(A) LARGE URBANIZED AREAS.—Sixty percent of the funds shall be apportioned among designated recipients for large urbanized areas in the ratio that—

“(i) the number of full-time equivalent covered students in each such urbanized area; bears to

“(ii) the number of full-time equivalent covered students in all such urbanized areas.

“(B) SMALL URBANIZED AREAS.—Twenty percent of the funds shall be apportioned among the States in the ratio that—

“(i) the number of full-time equivalent covered students in small urbanized areas in each State; bears to

1 “(ii) the number of full-time equiva-
2 lent covered students in small urbanized
3 areas in all States.

4 “(C) RURAL AREAS.—Twenty percent of
5 the funds shall be apportioned among the
6 States in the ratio that—

7 “(i) the number of full-time equivalent
8 covered students in rural areas in each
9 State; bears to

10 “(ii) the number of full-time equiva-
11 lent covered students in rural areas in all
12 States.

13 “(2) AREAS SERVED BY PROJECTS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
15 subparagraph (B)—

16 “(i) funds apportioned under para-
17 graph (1)(A) shall be used to serve covered
18 students or institutions of higher education
19 in large urbanized areas;

20 “(ii) funds apportioned under para-
21 graph (1)(B) shall be used to serve covered
22 students or institutions of higher education
23 in small urbanized areas; and

24 “(iii) funds apportioned under para-
25 graph (1)(C) shall be used to serve covered

1 students or institutions of higher education
2 in rural areas.

3 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—A State may use
4 funds apportioned to the State under subpara-
5 graph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1)—

6 “(i) to serve covered students or insti-
7 tutions of higher education in an area
8 other than an area specified in subpara-
9 graph (A)(ii) or (A)(iii), as the case may
10 be, if the Governor of the State certifies
11 that all of the objectives of this section are
12 being met in the area specified in subpara-
13 graph (A)(ii) or (A)(iii); or

14 “(ii) to serve covered students or in-
15 stitutions of higher education anywhere in
16 the State, if the State has established a
17 statewide program for meeting the objec-
18 tives of this section.

19 “(C) CONSULTATION.—A recipient may
20 transfer an amount under subparagraph (B)
21 only after consulting with responsible local offi-
22 cials, publicly owned operators of public trans-
23 portation, and nonprofit providers in the area
24 for which the amount was originally appor-
25 tioned.”; and

1 (2) in section 5338(a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
4 “\$9,347,604,639” and inserting
5 “\$9,597,604,639”;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 “\$9,534,706,043” and inserting
8 “\$9,784,706,043”;

9 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
10 “\$9,733,353,407” and inserting
11 “\$9,983,353,407”;

12 (iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking
13 “\$9,939,380,030” and inserting
14 “\$10,189,380,030”; and

15 (v) in subparagraph (E), by striking
16 “\$10,150,348,462” and inserting
17 “\$10,400,348,462”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (M), by striking
20 “and” at the end;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (N), by striking
22 the period at the end and inserting “;
23 and”; and

24 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(M) \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 2 2016 through 2020 shall be available to carry
 3 out section 5308.”.

4 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
 6 for chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, is
 7 amended by striking the item relating to section
 8 5308 and inserting the following:

 “5308. Formula grants to increase ridership by college students.”.

9 (2) OBLIGATION CEILING.—Section 3018 of the
 10 Federal Public Transportation Act of 2015 (title III
 11 of Public Law 114–94) is amended—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking
 13 “\$9,347,604,639” and inserting
 14 “\$9,597,604,639”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking
 16 “\$9,733,706,043” and inserting
 17 “\$9,983,706,043”;

18 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking
 19 “\$9,733,353,407” and inserting
 20 “\$9,983,353,407”;

21 (D) in paragraph (4), by striking
 22 “\$9,939,380,030” and inserting
 23 “\$10,189,380,030”; and

1 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking
2 “\$10,150,348,462” and inserting
3 “\$10,400,348,462”.

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