

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2508

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

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## 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

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## 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)”;

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;

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

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

**13 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—**

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

22 (B) the compensation of—

23 (i) any State member of the Commission  
24 (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

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

3 (2) in paragraph (4)—

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

(B) by inserting "Chittenden," before  
"Essex,";

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

(D) by inserting “, Rutland, Washington,  
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.

