

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3537

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in persistent poverty counties, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 28), 2018

Mr. BOOKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in persistent poverty counties, 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 “An Act Targeting Re-
5 sources to Communities in Need”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—The term “de-
9 velopment program” means any of the following pro-
10 grams, offices, or appropriations accounts:

1 (A) Any program administered by the Of-
2 fice of Rural Development of the Department of
3 Agriculture.

4 (B) The Appalachian Regional Commis-
5 sion.

6 (C) Department of Commerce, Economic
7 Development Administration, Economic Devel-
8 opment Assistance Programs.

9 (D) The Delta Regional Authority.

10 (E) The Denali Commission.

11 (F) Any training or employment services
12 program administered by the Employment and
13 Training Administration of the Department of
14 Labor.

15 (G) Department of Health and Human
16 Services, Health Resources and Services Admin-
17 istration.

18 (H) Environmental Protection Agency,
19 State and Tribal Assistance Grants.

20 (I) Department of Commerce, National In-
21 stitute of Standards and Technology, Construc-
22 tion.

23 (J) Department of Justice, Office of Jus-
24 tice Programs.

1 (K) Department of Transportation, Office
2 of the Secretary, Nationally Significant Freight
3 and Highway Projects.

4 (L) Department of Transportation, Office
5 of the Secretary, National Infrastructure In-
6 vestments.

7 (M) Department of Transportation, Fed-
8 eral Transit Administration, Bus & Bus Facili-
9 ties Infrastructure Investment Program.

10 (N) Department of Transportation, Fed-
11 eral Transit Administration, Capital Investment
12 Grants Program.

13 (O) Any program of the Department of the
14 Treasury relating to Community Development
15 Financial Institutions (within the meaning of
16 section 103 of the Community Development
17 Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994
18 (12 U.S.C. 4702)).

19 (2) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTY.—The term
20 “persistent poverty county” means any county with
21 a poverty rate of at least 20 percent, as determined
22 in each of the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses,
23 and in the Bureau of the Census’s Small Area In-
24 come and Poverty Estimates for the most recent
25 year for which the estimates are available.

1 (3) HIGH-POVERTY AREA.—The term “high-
 2 poverty area” means a census tract with a poverty
 3 rate of at least 20 percent during the 3 years most
 4 recently ending before the date of the enactment of
 5 this Act.

6 **SEC. 3. 10-20-30 FORMULA FOR PERSISTENT POVERTY**
 7 **COUNTIES.**

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the enti-
 9 ty responsible for administering a development program
 10 shall use not less than 10 percent of the amounts made
 11 available in any appropriations Act for the program for
 12 any of fiscal years 2019 through 2028, in persistent pov-
 13 erty counties, if the entity is otherwise authorized to do
 14 so.

15 **SEC. 4. TARGETING HIGH-POVERTY CENSUS TRACTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
 17 sion of law, the entity responsible for administering a de-
 18 velopment program shall use not less than the amount de-
 19 scribed in subsection (b) of the amounts made available
 20 in any appropriations Act for the program for any of fiscal
 21 years 2019 through 2028, for projects in high-poverty
 22 areas, if the entity is otherwise authorized to do so.

23 (b) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—The amount described in
 24 this subsection with respect to a program is an amount
 25 equal to the sum of—

1 (1) the average percentage of Federal assist-
2 ance awarded under the program in the 3 fiscal
3 years most recently ending before the date of the en-
4 actment of this Act that were used for projects in
5 high-poverty areas; plus

6 (2) 5 percent of the average total Federal loan
7 and grant funds awarded under the program in the
8 3 fiscal years referred to in paragraph (1).

9 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If an entity responsible
10 for administering a development program determines that
11 the provision of benefits under the program in a particular
12 census tract actually benefits individuals predominantly
13 living in other census tracts, then the entity shall, within
14 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, in-
15 form the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
16 et and the Congress that it would be more appropriate
17 to track the provision of benefits under the program based
18 on the census tracts in which the individuals who actually
19 receive the benefits reside and on whether the benefits
20 serve individuals who reside in predominantly low-income
21 census tracts.

22 **SEC. 5. FAILURE TO USE FUNDS.**

23 If the entity responsible for administering a develop-
24 ment program does not comply with section 4 with respect
25 to the program for a fiscal year, the entity shall submit

1 to the Congress a report that describes how the entity
2 plans to do so in the next fiscal year.

3 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 Within 6 months after the end of fiscal year 2019
5 and within 6 months after the end of each fiscal year
6 thereafter, the entity responsible for administering each
7 development program shall submit to the Congress a
8 progress report on the implementation of this Act with re-
9 spect to the development program.

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