

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4247

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish university centers to encourage certain economic development, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18 (legislative day, MAY 17), 2022

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish university centers to encourage certain economic 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 “University Centers for
5 Growth, Development, and Prosperity Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY UNIVERSITY**
 2 **CENTERS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title II of the Public Works
 4 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141
 5 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 219. UNIVERSITY CENTERS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
 8 awards to institutions of higher learning for such institu-
 9 tions to serve as university centers.

10 “(b) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.—The Secretary shall
 11 ensure that one university center is established in each
 12 State to provide services in such State.

13 “(c) PRIORITIZATION OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COL-
 14 LEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNI-
 15 VERSITIES, HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS, AND MI-
 16 NORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—In establishing univer-
 17 sity centers under this section, the Secretary shall
 18 prioritize institutions of higher education that are eligible
 19 to receive funds under section 371(a) of the Higher Edu-
 20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

21 “(d) DUTIES.—The university centers established
 22 under this section, to the extent practicable, shall—

23 “(1) collaborate with other university centers;

24 “(2) collaborate with economic development dis-
 25 tricts, trade adjustment assistance centers, Hollings
 26 Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers of the

1 National Institute of Standards and Technology,
2 Business Centers and Rural Business Centers of the
3 Minority Business Development Agency, and other
4 relevant Federal economic development technical as-
5 sistance and service providers to provide expertise,
6 applied research, and technical assistance to develop,
7 implement, and support regional strategies that as-
8 sist in job creation, high-skilled regional talent pools,
9 and business expansion in a region’s innovation clus-
10 ter;

11 “(3) provide technical assistance, business de-
12 velopment services, and technology transfer services
13 to businesses in the service area of the university
14 center;

15 “(4) establish partnerships with one or more
16 commercialization intermediaries that are public or
17 nonprofit technology transfer organizations eligible
18 to receive a grant under section 602(d)(1)(B) of the
19 American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42
20 U.S.C. 1862s–9(d)(1)(B)); and

21 “(5) provide to communities and regions assist-
22 ance relating to data collection and analysis and
23 other research relating to economic conditions and
24 vulnerabilities that can inform economic development
25 and adjustment strategies.

1 “(e) FUNDING.—The Secretary may provide to each
 2 university center under this section for each fiscal year
 3 an amount that is not less than \$500,000 and not more
 4 than \$1,000,000.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(12) of
 6 the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965
 7 (42 U.S.C. 3122(12)) is amended by inserting “a univer-
 8 sity center established under section 219 or” after
 9 “means”.

10 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 11 in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
 12 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note) is amended
 13 by inserting after the item relating to section 218 the fol-
 14 lowing new item:

“Sec. 219. University centers.”.

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