

### 117TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

## H. R. 7590

To reauthorize and improve the programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 26, 2022

Ms. Titus introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

## A BILL

To reauthorize and improve the programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, 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 "Economic Development
- 5 Promotion and Resiliency Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.
- 7 (a) Predevelopment Grants.—Title II of the
- 8 Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42

U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 207 the following: "SEC. 208. PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS. 4 "(a) Predevelopment Grants.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants or cooperative agreements for— 6 "(1) community asset mapping; 7 "(2) training; 8 9 "(3) technical assistance and organizational de-10 velopment; 11 "(4) feasibility, environmental, and market 12 studies; 13 "(5) demonstration projects; 14 "(6) organizational capacity building; "(7) organizing and facilitating convenings; 15 "(8) site preparation and infrastructure; 16 17 "(9) permitting, including professional services; 18 and 19 "(10) other predevelopment activities deter-20 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate. 21 "(b) APPLICATION ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a project carried out with a grant under this section that provides assistance to one or more eligible entities with low organizational capacity, the Secretary may waive sec-

25 tion 213.".

1 (b) Grant Rate for Predevelopment Grants.— 2 Section 204(c)(3) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144) is amended— 3 (1) in the paragraph heading, by striking "AND 4 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" and inserting "TECHNICAL 5 6 ASSISTANCE, AND PREDEVELOPMENT"; and (2) by striking "section 207" and inserting 7 "sections 207 or 208". 8 9 (c) Conforming Amendments.— 10 (1) Direct expenditure or redistribution 11 BY RECIPIENT.—Section 217(a) of the Public Works 12 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3154c(a)) is amended by striking "or 207" and in-13 serting "207, or 208". 14 15 (2)Powers OFSECRETARY.—Section 16 601(a)(12) of the Public Works and Economic De-17 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3211(a)(12)) is 18 amended by striking "section 207" and inserting 19 "sections 207 and 208". 20 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents 21 in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note) is amended by inserting after the item related to section 207 the fol-

"Sec. 208. Predevelopment grants.".

24 lowing:

# 1 SEC. 3. CAPACITY BUILDING PILOT PROGRAM. 2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 218 of the Public Works

- 4 3154d) is amended to read as follows:
- 5 "SEC. 218. STRONG COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC DEVELOP-

and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.

- 6 MENT CAPACITY BUILDING PILOT PROGRAM.
- 7 "(a) Establishment.—The Secretary shall estab-
- 8 lish a program, to be known as the 'Strong Communities
- 9 Economic Development Capacity Building Pilot Program',
- 10 under which the Secretary shall provide grants, on a com-
- 11 petitive basis, to an eligible recipient to hire 1 or more
- 12 qualified economic development professionals to assist the
- 13 eligible recipient in implementing certain projects and pri-
- 14 orities.

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- 15 "(b) Applications.—
- 16 "(1) In general.—To be eligible to receive a
- 17 grant under this section, an eligible recipient shall
- submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
- in such manner, and containing such information as
- the Secretary may require.
- 21 "(2) Inclusions.—Each application under this
- 22 subsection shall include—
- 23 "(A) a demonstration of need for economic
- development staffing, support, and technical as-
- 25 sistance; and

1	"(B) an explanation of the means for
2	which the eligible recipient would use the serv-
3	ices of each qualified economic development
4	professional hired using a grant under this sec-
5	tion.
6	"(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible recipient shall use
7	a grant provided under this section to hire 1 or more
8	qualified economic development professionals to assist the
9	eligible recipient in—
10	"(1) implementing projects and priorities, in-
11	cluding—
12	"(A) a comprehensive economic develop-
13	ment strategy;
14	"(B) a locally-derived economic develop-
15	ment strategic plan other than a comprehensive
16	economic development strategy;
17	"(C) projects carried out with grants
18	awarded under this Act;
19	"(D) a predevelopment project;
20	"(E) a public-private partnership initiative;
21	"(F) business retention and expansion ef-
22	forts;
23	"(G) entrepreneur and small business de-
24	velopment activities:

1	"(H) real estate development and reuse
2	projects;
3	"(I) financial and credit analysis resources;
4	"(J) a workforce and economic develop-
5	ment program; and
6	"(K) other projects and priorities related
7	to core economic development practices;
8	"(2) identifying and using other Federal and
9	State economic development programs;
10	"(3) leveraging private and philanthropic in-
11	vestment; and
12	"(4) carrying out economic development activi-
13	ties in accordance with professional economic devel-
14	opment best practices.
15	"(d) Requirements.—A grant provided under this
16	section shall be—
17	"(1) in an amount equal to not more than
18	\$500,000; and
19	"(2) provided for a term of—
20	"(A) not less than 3 years; and
21	"(B) not more than 5 years.
22	"(e) Limitation.—
23	"(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2)—
24	"(A) a grant recipient may use a grant
25	provided under this section to pay an amount

- 1 equal to 80 percent of the salary of a qualified 2 economic development professional hired using 3 the grant; and "(B) the Secretary may permit such grant 4 recipient to pay an amount equal to 100 percent of the salary of such professional if the 6 7 Secretary determines that the extent of distress 8 in the community receiving such grant warrants 9 the payment in such amount. "(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant provided 10 11 under this section may not be used to pay more than \$100,000 of the salary of a qualified economic devel-12 13 opment professional hired using the grant. 14 "(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'quali-15 fied economic development professional' means an individual— 16
- 17 "(1) with not less than 4 consecutive years of 18 economic development experience; and
- "(2) with relevant professional training obtained from an accrediting organization, or who is committed to obtaining such training from an accrediting organization.".
- 23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents 24 in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Devel-25 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note) is further

- 1 amended by striking the item relating to section 218 and
- 2 inserting the following:

"218. Strong communities economic development capacity building pilot program.".

#### 3 SEC. 4. COVID-ERA FUNDING AVAILABILITY.

- 4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
- 5 amounts made available to carry out the Public Works and
- 6 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et
- 7 seq.) during the period for which the public health emer-
- 8 gency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human
- 9 Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service
- 10 Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect
- 11 to COVID-19 is in effect shall be available until Sep-
- 12 tember 30, 2030.
- 13 SEC. 5. TRAVEL, TOURISM, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
- 14 STABILIZATION GRANTS.
- 15 (a) In General.—Title II of the Public Works and
- 16 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et
- 17 seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
- 18 lowing:
- 19 "SEC. 219. TRAVEL, TOURISM, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
- 20 **STABILIZATION GRANTS.**
- 21 "(a) Establishment.—The Secretary shall estab-
- 22 lish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to
- 23 support outdoor recreation, tourism, hospitality, or special
- 24 event activities to spur economic development.

1	"(b) Eligible Uses.—
2	"(1) In general.—A grant under this section
3	may be used to—
4	"(A) pay costs associated with obtaining
5	State, county, city, community, or regional
6	tourism marketing and promotion campaigns,
7	including through nonprofit or quasi-govern-
8	mental destination marketing organizations;
9	"(B) carry out workforce training pro-
10	grams that support the travel, tourism, hospi-
11	tality, and outdoor recreation industries to im-
12	prove the skills of, and job opportunities for,
13	employees in such industries;
14	"(C) carry out projects to improve regional
15	economies in developing travel, tourism, hospi-
16	tality, and outdoor recreation industries, includ-
17	ing projects to assist small businesses, entre-
18	preneurs, and small and rural communities;
19	"(D) pay costs associated with upgrades
20	and retrofits to existing travel, tourism, hospi-
21	tality, and outdoor recreation infrastructure,
22	such as convention centers, to increase travel
23	and tourism activity or to make such infrastruc-
24	ture more functional under social distancing

conditions due to a public health emergency;

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1	"(E) carry out construction activities at a
2	facility or property that is related to tourism
3	and owned by the eligible recipient;
4	"(F) pay costs associated with providing
5	information to visitors about the health and
6	safety protections, guidance, or requirements of
7	Federal, State, or local governments and busi-
8	nesses to reduce the spread of a public health
9	emergency;
10	"(G) pay the increased costs of filtration
11	and sanitation, including physical modifications
12	to a convention center, large event space, or
13	community attraction associated with pre-
14	cautions to provide for safe work, travel, or
15	event environments; and
16	"(H) establish local programs to provide
17	assistance to a small business operating in the
18	travel, tourism, hospitality, outdoor recreation,
19	or special events industries—
20	"(i) for development or expansion of
21	such small business; or
22	"(ii) to recover from the impacts of a
23	public health emergency.
24	"(2) Prohibition.—A grant provided under
25	this section may not be used—

1	"(A) for recruitment efforts to bring in or
2	host a particular event, such as a sporting com-
3	petition; or
4	"(B) to pay costs associated with obtaining
5	a marketing and promotion campaign described
6	in paragraph (1)(A) if such campaign is carried
7	out for the benefit of a private company.
8	"(c) Priority.—In providing grants under this sec-
9	tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible recipients
10	that seek to carry out an activity that—
11	"(1) is based on long-term, regionally oriented,
12	coordinated, and collaborative economic development
13	or redevelopment strategies that foster economic
14	growth and resilience;
15	"(2) promotes workforce development;
16	"(3) involves a minority-owned, rural, or other-
17	wise underserved small business; or
18	"(4) implements strong labor standards, includ-
19	ing project labor agreements and community benefit
20	agreements that include local hire provisions to pro-
21	mote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality
22	infrastructure projects.
23	"(d) Regional Distribution.—
24	"(1) In general.—In providing grants under
25	this section, the Secretary shall select eligible recipi-

1	ents in each region served by the Economic Develop-
2	ment Administration.
3	"(2) Regional amounts.—
4	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made
5	available to carry out this section, the Secretary
6	shall allocate an amount for each region served
7	by the Economic Development Administration
8	in an amount equal to the proportion that—
9	"(i) the average employment in the
10	leisure and hospitality sectors in a region
11	for fiscal years 2015 through 2019; bears
12	to
13	"(ii) the total employment and gross
14	domestic product in such region for such
15	fiscal years.
16	"(B) Special rule.—
17	"(i) In general.—In cases in which
18	the data described in subparagraph (A) is
19	not available for a territory in a region, the
20	Secretary shall establish an allocation
21	amount for such region using any other
22	data that the Secretary determines reliably
23	measures the impact of tourism, hospi-
24	tality, and special events on the economy
25	of such region.

1	"(ii) Limitation.—In establishing an
2	allocation amount under clause (i) to ac-
3	count for unavailable data for a territory
4	in a region, the Secretary may establish an
5	allocation amount for such region that is
6	not more than 10 percent higher than the
7	amount that would be allocated for such
8	region pursuant to the formula described
9	in subparagraph (A).
10	"(3) Grant amount.—The Secretary shall de-
11	termine the amount of each grant provided to an eli-
12	gible recipient in a region served by the Economic
13	Development Administration based on the allocation
14	for such region under paragraph (2).
15	"(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—Of the
16	amounts made available pursuant to section 701(a) for
17	each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027, \$100,000,000
18	shall be made available to carry out this section.
19	"(f) Definitions.—In this section:
20	"(1) Outdoor recreation.—The term 'out-
21	door recreation' means all recreational activities un-
22	dertaken for pleasure that—
23	"(A) involve some level of intentional phys-
24	ical exertion; and

1	"(B) occur in outdoor nature-based envi-
2	ronments.
3	"(2) Public Health Emergency.—The term
4	'public health emergency' means a public health
5	emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and
6	Human Services pursuant to section 319 of the Pub-
7	lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).
8	"(3) Tourism, hospitality, or special
9	EVENT ACTIVITY.—The term 'tourism, hospitality, or
10	special event activity means any economic activity
11	that primarily serves to encourage recreational or
12	business travel within the United States or from an-
13	other country, including—
14	"(A) tourist attractions; and
15	"(B) venues that support conventions or
16	entertainment events.".
17	(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
18	in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
19	opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note) is further
20	amended by inserting after the item relating to section
21	218 (as amended by this Act) the following:

"Sec. 219. Travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation stabilization grants.".