

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 267

To increase the Federal share of operating costs for certain projects that receive grants under the Formula Grants to Rural Areas Program of the Federal Transit Administration.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To increase the Federal share of operating costs for certain projects that receive grants under the Formula Grants to Rural Areas Program of the Federal Transit Administration.

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 “Investments in Rural
5 Transit Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE OF OPERATING COSTS**
 2 **FOR CERTAIN AREAS.**

3 Section 5311(g)(2)(B) of title 49, United States
 4 Code, is amended—

5 (1) in the subparagraph heading, by striking
 6 “EXCEPTION” and inserting “EXCEPTIONS”;

7 (2) by striking “A State” and inserting the fol-
 8 lowing:

9 “(i) STATES WITH NONTAXABLE IN-
 10 DIAN LANDS OR PUBLIC DOMAIN LANDS.—
 11 Subject to clause (ii), a State”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(ii) AREAS WITH PARTICULAR
 14 NEEDS.—

15 “(I) DEFINITION.—In this
 16 clause, the term ‘area of persistent
 17 poverty’ means—

18 “(aa) any county in which
 19 not less than 20 percent of the
 20 population has lived in poverty
 21 during the most recent 30-year
 22 period, as measured by—

23 “(AA) the second and
 24 third most recent decennial
 25 censuses; and

1 “(BB) the Small Area
 2 Income and Poverty Esti-
 3 mates of the Bureau of the
 4 Census for the most recent
 5 year for which the Estimates
 6 are available; or

7 “(bb) any census tract with
 8 a poverty rate of not less than 20
 9 percent, as measured by most re-
 10 cent 5-year data series available
 11 from the American Community
 12 Survey of the Bureau of the Cen-
 13 sus.

14 “(II) INCREASED FEDERAL
 15 SHARE.—A grant made under this
 16 section for operating assistance to an
 17 operator of public transportation that
 18 serves an area that meets one or more
 19 of the criteria under subclause (III)
 20 shall be for 80 percent of the net op-
 21 erating costs of the project, as deter-
 22 mined by the Secretary.

23 “(III) CRITERIA.—The criteria
 24 referred to in subclause (II) are that
 25 an area—

1 “(aa) is an area of per-
2 sistent poverty;

3 “(bb) is a county in which
4 not less than 25 percent of resi-
5 dents are age 65 or older, accord-
6 ing to the most recent 5-year es-
7 timate of the American Commu-
8 nity Survey of the Bureau of the
9 Census;

10 “(cc) is a county that, or is
11 a county that includes a site
12 that—

13 “(AA) has been des-
14 ignated by the Secretary of
15 Health and Human Services
16 as a health professional
17 shortage area under section
18 332(a) of the Public Health
19 Service Act (42 U.S.C.
20 254e(a)) on the basis of a
21 primary care or mental
22 health care shortage; and

23 “(BB) received a health
24 professional shortage area
25 score for the most recent

1 program year, with respect
2 to primary care or mental
3 health care, that was not
4 less than the lowest min-
5 imum score, as designated
6 by the Secretary of Health
7 and Human Services for
8 that program year, nec-
9 essary for the site to be eli-
10 gible for the assignment of
11 National Health Service
12 Corps members providing
13 primary care or mental
14 health care, respectively, for
15 fulfillment of obligated serv-
16 ice under the National
17 Health Service Corps Schol-
18 arship Program; or

19 “(dd) is a county with a
20 population density of not more
21 than 20 persons per square mile
22 of land area, based on the most
23 recent decennial census.”.

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