

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 927

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in conjunction with the Secretary of Transportation, to carry out a Sustainable Communities Initiative, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Mr. BLUMENAUER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in conjunction with the Secretary of Transportation, to carry out a Sustainable Communities Initiative, 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 “Sustainable Commu-
5 nities Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE.**

2 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Housing and
3 Urban Development (in this section referred to as the
4 “Secretary”) shall, in coordination with the Secretary of
5 Transportation, carry out a Sustainable Communities Ini-
6 tiative to improve regional planning efforts that integrate
7 housing and transportation decisions, and increase the ca-
8 pacity to improve land use and zoning.

9 (b) **REGIONAL INTEGRATED PLANNING GRANTS.**—

10 (1) **AUTHORITY.**—Under the Sustainable Com-
11 munities Initiative under this section the Secretary
12 shall, to the extent amounts are made available for
13 grants under this subsection pursuant to subsection
14 (f), provide Regional Integrated Planning Grants to
15 support improvements in and coordination of metro-
16 politan-wide housing, transportation, energy, and
17 land use planning activities.

18 (2) **COMPETITION; GRANTEES.**—Grants under
19 this subsection shall be awarded on a competitive
20 basis to regional, multijurisdictional organizations
21 and consortia in metropolitan areas. The Secretary
22 shall consult with the Secretary of Transportation in
23 evaluating applications for such grants.

24 (c) **COMMUNITY CHALLENGE PLANNING GRANTS.**—

25 (1) **AUTHORITY.**—Under the Sustainable Com-
26 munities Initiative under this section the Secretary

1 shall, to the extent amounts are made available for
2 grants under this subsection pursuant to subsection
3 (f), provide Community Challenge Planning Grants
4 to foster reform and reduce barriers, including
5 through the reform of existing building codes and
6 zoning ordinances, to achieve affordable, economi-
7 cally vital, and sustainable communities and discour-
8 age inefficient land use patterns.

9 (2) COMPETITION; GRANTEES.—Grants under
10 this subsection shall be awarded on a competitive
11 basis to units of general local government. The Sec-
12 retary shall consult with the Secretary of Transpor-
13 tation in evaluating applications for such grants.

14 (d) PLAN.—The Secretary may not award any grant
15 under subsection (b) or (c) before the Secretary, in coordi-
16 nation with the Secretary of Transportation, submits to
17 the Congress a plan establishing grant criteria and per-
18 formance measures by which to measure the success of
19 grantees in achieving the goals of the grants, which plan
20 shall be based on the requirements under the Department
21 of Housing and Urban Development Notice of Funding
22 Availability (NOFA) for Fiscal Year 2010 Sustainable
23 Communities Regional Planning Grant Program [Docket
24 No. FR-5396-03].

1 (e) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary
 2 and the Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a joint
 3 research effort to evaluate the grant programs under sub-
 4 sections (b) and (c) to quantify the benefits and costs of
 5 such programs. Amounts made available for activities
 6 under this subsection may be used to improve the technical
 7 capacities of regional organizations, local jurisdictions,
 8 community-based organizations, developers, and private
 9 sector lenders to carry out eligible activities under the
 10 grant programs under subsections (b) and (c).

11 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 13 \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021, of
 14 which for each such fiscal year—

15 (1) \$100,000,000 shall be for Regional Inte-
 16 grated Planning Grants under subsection (b) and of
 17 which not less than \$25,000,000 for each such fiscal
 18 year shall be only for such grants for metropolitan
 19 areas having populations of fewer than 500,000 per-
 20 sons;

21 (2) \$40,000,000 shall be for Community Chal-
 22 lenge Planning Grants under subsection (c); and

23 (3) up to \$10,000,000 shall be for carrying out
 24 activities under subsection (e).

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