

## 119TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 2145

To establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 14, 2025

Mrs. Miller-Meeks (for herself, Ms. Sherrill, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Ms. Tenney, and Ms. McClellan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

## A BILL

To establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, 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.
- This Act may be cited as the "Recycling Infrastruc-
- 5 ture and Accessibility Act of 2025".
- 6 SEC. 2. RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY
- 7 **PROGRAM.**
- 8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1	(1) Administrator.—The term "Adminis-
2	trator" means the Administrator of the Environ-
3	mental Protection Agency.
4	(2) CURBSIDE RECYCLING.—The term
5	"curbside recycling" means the process by which
6	residential recyclable materials are picked up
7	curbside.
8	(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible enti-
9	ty'' means—
10	(A) a State (as defined in section 1004 of
11	the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C.
12	6903));
13	(B) a unit of local government;
14	(C) an Indian Tribe; and
15	(D) a public-private partnership.
16	(4) Indian Tribe.—The term "Indian Tribe"
17	has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
18	Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
19	Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).
20	(5) Materials recovery facility.—
21	(A) In General.—The term "materials
22	recovery facility' means a recycling facility
23	where primarily residential recyclables, which
24	are diverted from disposal by a generator and
25	collected separately from municipal solid waste,

1	are mechanically or manually sorted into com-
2	modities for further processing into specifica-
3	tion-grade commodities for sale to end users.
4	(B) Exclusion.—The term "materials re-
5	covery facility" does not include a solid waste
6	management facility that may process munic-
7	ipal solid waste to remove recyclable materials.
8	(6) PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.—The term "pilot
9	grant program" means the Recycling Infrastructure
10	and Accessibility Program established under sub-
11	section (b).
12	(7) RECYCLABLE MATERIAL.—The term "recy-
13	clable material" means obsolete, previously used, off-
14	specification, surplus, or incidentally produced mate-
15	rial for processing into a specification-grade com-
16	modity for which a market exists.
17	(8) Transfer station.—The term "transfer
18	station" means a facility that—
19	(A) receives and consolidates recyclable
20	material from curbside recycling or drop-off fa-
21	cilities; and
22	(B) loads the recyclable material onto trac-
23	tor trailers, railcars, or barges for transport to
24	a distant materials recovery facility or another

recycling-related facility.

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- 1 (9) Underserved community.—The term
  2 "underserved community" means a community, in3 cluding an unincorporated area, without access to
  4 full recycling services because—
- 5 (A) transportation, distance, or other rea-6 sons render utilization of available processing 7 capacity at an existing materials recovery facil-8 ity cost prohibitive; or
- 9 (B) the processing capacity of an existing 10 materials recovery facility is insufficient to 11 manage the volume of recyclable materials pro-12 duced by that community.
- 13 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months
  14 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
  15 shall establish a pilot grant program, to be known as the
  16 "Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Program", to
  17 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities
  18 to improve recycling accessibility in a community or com19 munities within the same geographic area.
- 20 (c) GOAL.—The goal of the pilot grant program is 21 to fund eligible projects that will significantly improve ac-22 cessibility to recycling systems through investments in in-23 frastructure in underserved communities through the use 24 of a hub-and-spoke model for recycling infrastructure de-25 velopment.

- 1 (d) Applications.—To be eligible to receive a grant
- 2 under the pilot grant program, an eligible entity shall sub-
- 3 mit to the Administrator an application at such time, in
- 4 such manner, and containing such information as the Ad-
- 5 ministrator may require.
- 6 (e) Considerations.—In selecting eligible entities
- 7 to receive a grant under the pilot grant program, the Ad-
- 8 ministrator shall consider—
- 9 (1) whether the community or communities in
- which the eligible entity is seeking to carry out a
- 11 proposed project has curbside recycling;
- 12 (2) whether the proposed project of the eligible
- entity will improve accessibility to recycling services
- in a single underserved community or multiple un-
- derserved communities; and
- 16 (3) if the eligible entity is a public-private part-
- 17 nership, the financial health of the private entity
- seeking to enter into that public-private partnership.
- 19 (f) Priority.—In selecting eligible entities to receive
- 20 a grant under the pilot grant program, the Administrator
- 21 shall give priority to eligible entities seeking to carry out
- 22 a proposed project in a community in which there is not
- 23 more than 1 materials recovery facility within a 75-mile
- 24 radius of that community.

- 1 (g) Use of Funds.—An eligible entity awarded a
- 2 grant under the pilot grant program may use the grant
- 3 funds for projects to improve recycling accessibility in
- 4 communities, including in underserved communities, by—
- 5 (1) increasing the number of transfer stations;
- 6 (2) expanding curbside recycling collection pro-
- 7 grams where appropriate; and
- 8 (3) leveraging public-private partnerships to re-
- 9 duce the costs associated with collecting and trans-
- 10 porting recyclable materials in underserved commu-
- 11 nities.
- 12 (h) Prohibition on Use of Funds.—An eligible
- 13 entity awarded a grant under the pilot grant program may
- 14 not use the grant funds for projects relating to recycling
- 15 education programs.
- 16 (i) Minimum and Maximum Grant Amount.—A
- 17 grant awarded to an eligible entity under the pilot grant
- 18 program shall be in an amount—
- 19 (1) not less than \$500,000; and
- 20 (2) not more than \$15,000,000.
- 21 (j) Set-Aside.—The Administrator shall set aside
- 22 not less than 70 percent of the amounts made available
- 23 to carry out the pilot grant program for each fiscal year
- 24 to award grants to eligible entities to carry out a proposed

project or program in a single underserved community or multiple underserved communities. 3 (k) Federal Share.— 4 (1) In General.—Subject to paragraph (2), 5 the Federal share of the cost of a project or pro-6 gram carried out by an eligible entity using grant 7 funds shall be not more than 90 percent. 8 (2) Waiver.—The Administrator may waive 9 the Federal share requirement under paragraph (1) 10 if the Administrator determines that an eligible enti-11 ty would experience significant financial hardship as 12 a result of that requirement. 13 (1) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the first grant is awarded under the pilot grant 14 15 program, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of the pilot grant pro-16 17 gram, which shall include— 18 (1) a list of eligible entities that have received 19 a grant under the pilot grant program; 20 (2) the actions taken by each eligible entity that 21 received a grant under the pilot grant program to 22 improve recycling accessibility with grant funds; and 23 (3) to the extent information is available, a de-24 scription of how grant funds received under the pilot

grant program improved recycling rates in each com-

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1	munity in which a project or program was carried
2	out under the pilot grant program.
3	(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
4	(1) In general.—There is authorized to be
5	appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the
6	pilot grant program \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal
7	years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until
8	expended.
9	(2) Administrative costs and technical
10	ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts made available under
11	paragraph (1), the Administrator may use up to 5
12	percent—
13	(A) for administrative costs relating to car-
14	rying out the pilot grant program; and
15	(B) to provide technical assistance to eligi-
16	ble entities applying for a grant under the pilot
17	grant program.

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