

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2134

To amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Southern New England Regional Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2021

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Mr. NEAL) 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 amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Southern New England Regional Commission, 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 “Southern New England
5 Regional Commission Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND RE-**
2 **GIONAL COMMISSION.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40,
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(4) The Southern New England Regional
7 Commission.”.

8 (b) PURPOSES FOR ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUC-
9 TURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—Section 15501(a) of such
10 title is amended to read as follows:

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may make grants
12 to States and local governments, Indian tribes, and public
13 and nonprofit organizations for projects, approved in ac-
14 cordance with section 15503—

15 “(1) to develop the transportation infrastruc-
16 ture of its region;

17 “(2) to develop the basic public infrastructure
18 of its region;

19 “(3) to develop the telecommunications infra-
20 structure of its region;

21 “(4) to assist its region in obtaining job skills
22 training, skills development and employment-related
23 education, career pathways, apprenticeships opportu-
24 nities, entrepreneurship, technology, job coaching to
25 address the cliff effect, work supports (including
26 child care), and business development;

1 “(5) to provide assistance to severely economi-
2 cally distressed and underdeveloped areas of a region
3 that lack financial resources for improving basic
4 health care, two-generational practices that improve
5 school and workforce readiness and success, and
6 other public services, including work supports crit-
7 ical for families seeking employment which may in-
8 clude quality child care, transportation, health, and
9 housing;

10 “(6) to promote resource conservation, tourism,
11 recreation, and preservation of open space in a man-
12 ner consistent with economic development goals;

13 “(7) to promote the development of renewable
14 and alternative energy sources;

15 “(8) to support the maritime economy, includ-
16 ing boat and ship building and repair industries;

17 “(9) to assist in developing defense manufac-
18 turing industries;

19 “(10) to promote the adoption of composite and
20 other innovative materials in public transportation;

21 “(11) to grow the capacity for successful com-
22 munity economic development in its region;

23 “(12) to provide for employment training for
24 populations seeking employment, including parents

1 in poverty, adults in recovery, and reentry adults, in
 2 areas with worker shortages; and

3 “(13) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this
 4 subtitle.”.

5 (c) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter
 7 157 of such title is amended by adding at the end
 8 the following:

9 **“§ 15734. Southern New England Regional Commis-**
 10 **sion**

11 “The region of the Southern New England Regional
 12 Commission shall include the following counties:

13 “(1) RHODE ISLAND.—Each county in the
 14 State of Rhode Island.

15 “(2) CONNECTICUT.—The counties of Hartford,
 16 New Haven, Windham, Tolland, Middlesex, and New
 17 London in the State of Connecticut.

18 “(3) MASSACHUSETTS.—The counties of
 19 Hampden, Plymouth, Barnstable, Essex, Worcester
 20 and Bristol in the State of Massachusetts.”.

21 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
 22 subchapter II of chapter 157 of such title is amend-
 23 ed by adding at the end the following:

“15734. Southern New England Regional Commission.”.

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