

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# S. 1127

To establish a rural community service program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17 (legislative day, JUNE 15), 1993

Mr. McCONNELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## A BILL

To establish a rural community service program, 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. RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

4 Title XI of the of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
5 (20 U.S.C. 1136 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
6 the following new part:

7 **“PART C—RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE**

8 **“SEC. 1171. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

9 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

10 “(1) the Nation’s rural centers are facing in-  
11 creasingly pressing problems and needs in the areas

1 of economic development, community infrastructure  
2 and service, social policy, public health, housing,  
3 crime, education, environmental concerns, planning  
4 and work force preparation;

5 “(2) there are, in the Nation’s rural institu-  
6 tions, people with underutilized skills, knowledge,  
7 and experience who are capable of providing a vast  
8 range of services towards the amelioration of the  
9 problems described in paragraph (1);

10 “(3) the skills, knowledge, and experience in  
11 these rural institutions, if applied in a systematic  
12 and sustained manner, can make a significant con-  
13 tribution to the solution of such problems; and

14 “(4) the application of such skills, knowledge,  
15 and experience is hindered by the limited funds  
16 available to redirect attention to solutions to such  
17 rural problems.

18 “(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this part to pro-  
19 vide incentives to rural academic institutions to enable  
20 such institutions to work with private and civic organiza-  
21 tions to devise and implement solutions to pressing and  
22 severe problems in their communities.

23 **“SEC. 1172. PROGRAM.**

24 “The Secretary is authorized to carry out a program  
25 of providing assistance to eligible institutions to enable

1 such institutions to carry out the authorized activities de-  
2 scribed in section 1174 in accordance with the provisions  
3 of this part.

4 **“SEC. 1173. APPLICATIONS FOR RURAL COMMUNITY SERV-**  
5 **ICE GRANTS.**

6 “(a) APPLICATION.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution de-  
8 siring a grant under this part shall submit to the  
9 Secretary an application at such time, in such form,  
10 and containing or accompanied by such information  
11 and assurances, as the Secretary may require by  
12 regulation.

13 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted  
14 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

15 “(A) describe the activities and services for  
16 which assistance is sought; and

17 “(B) contain assurances that the eligible  
18 institution will enter into a consortium to carry  
19 out the provisions of this part that includes, in  
20 addition to the eligible institution, one or more  
21 of the following entities:

22 “(i) A community college.

23 “(ii) A rural local educational agency.

24 “(iii) A local government.

25 “(iv) A business or other employer.

1                   “(v) A nonprofit institution.

2                   “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the  
3 consortium requirements described in paragraph (2)  
4 for any applicant who can demonstrate to the satis-  
5 faction of the Secretary that the applicant has de-  
6 vised an integrated and coordinated plan which  
7 meets the purpose of this part.

8                   “(b) PRIORITY IN SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS.—  
9 The Secretary shall give priority to applications that pro-  
10 pose to conduct joint projects supported by other local,  
11 State, and Federal programs.

12                   “(c) SELECTION PROCEDURES.—The Secretary, by  
13 regulation, shall develop a formal procedure for the sub-  
14 mission of applications under this part and shall publish  
15 in the Federal Register an announcement of that proce-  
16 dure and the availability of funds under this part.

17 **“SEC. 1174. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

18                   “Grant funds made available under this part shall be  
19 used to support planning, applied research, training, re-  
20 source exchanges or technology transfers, the delivery of  
21 services, or other activities the purpose of which is to de-  
22 sign and implement programs to assist rural communities  
23 to meet and address their pressing and severe problems,  
24 such as any of the following:

25                   “(1) Work force preparation.

1           “(2) Rural poverty and the alleviation of such  
2 poverty.

3           “(3) Health care, including health care delivery  
4 and access as well as health education, prevention  
5 and wellness.

6           “(4) Underperforming school systems and stu-  
7 dents.

8           “(5) Problems faced by the elderly and individ-  
9 uals with disabilities in rural settings.

10          “(6) Problems faced by families and children.

11          “(7) Campus and community crime prevention,  
12 including enhanced security and safety awareness  
13 measures as well as coordinated programs address-  
14 ing the root causes of crime.

15          “(8) Rural housing.

16          “(9) Rural infrastructure.

17          “(10) Economic development.

18          “(11) Rural farming and environmental con-  
19 cerns.

20          “(12) Other problem areas which participants  
21 in the consortium described in section 1173(a)(2)(B)  
22 concur are of high priority in rural areas.

23          “(13)(A) Problems faced by individuals with  
24 disabilities and economically disadvantaged individ-  
25 uals regarding accessibility to institutions of higher

1 education and other public and private community  
2 facilities.

3 “(B) Amelioration of existing attitudinal bar-  
4 riers that prevent full inclusion of individuals with  
5 disabilities in their community.

6 **“SEC. 1175. PEER REVIEW.**

7 “The Secretary shall designate a peer review panel  
8 to review applications submitted under this part and make  
9 recommendations for funding to the Secretary. In select-  
10 ing the peer review panel, the Secretary may consult with  
11 other appropriate Cabinet-level Federal officials and with  
12 non-Federal organizations, to ensure that the panel will  
13 be geographically balanced and be composed of representa-  
14 tives from public and private institutions of higher edu-  
15 cation, labor, business, and State and local government,  
16 who have expertise in rural community service or in edu-  
17 cation.

18 **“SEC. 1176. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.**

19 “(a) MULTIYEAR AVAILABILITY.—Subject to the  
20 availability of appropriations, grants under this part may  
21 be made on a multiyear basis, except that no institution,  
22 individually or as a participant in a consortium, may re-  
23 ceive a grant for more than 5 years.

24 “(b) EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The  
25 Secretary shall award grants under this part in a manner

1 that achieves equitable geographic distribution of such  
2 grants.

3 “(c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An applicant under  
4 this part and the local governments associated with its ap-  
5 plication shall contribute to the conduct of the program  
6 supported by the grant an amount from non-Federal funds  
7 equal to at least one-fourth of the amount grant, which  
8 contribution may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated.

9 **“SEC. 1177. DESIGNATION OF RURAL GRANT INSTITUTIONS.**

10 “The Secretary shall publish a list of eligible institu-  
11 tions under this part and shall designate such institutions  
12 of higher education as ‘Rural Grant Institutions’. The  
13 Secretary shall establish a national network of Rural  
14 Grant Institutions so that the results of individual projects  
15 achieved in 1 rural area can be generalized, disseminated,  
16 replicated and applied throughout the Nation.

17 **“SEC. 1178. DEFINITIONS.**

18 “As used in this part:

19 “(1) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’  
20 means any area that is—

21 “(A) outside an urbanized area, as such  
22 term is defined by the Bureau of the Census;  
23 and

24 “(B) outside any place that—

1                   “(i) is incorporated or Bureau of the  
2                   Census designated; and

3                   “(ii) has a population of 75,000 or  
4                   more.

5                   “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-  
6                   ble institution’ means an institution of higher edu-  
7                   cation, or a consortium of such institutions any one  
8                   of which meets all the requirements of this para-  
9                   graph, which—

10                   “(A) is located in a rural area;

11                   “(B) draws a substantial portion of its un-  
12                   dergraduate students from the rural area in  
13                   which such institution is located, or from con-  
14                   tiguous areas;

15                   “(C) carries out programs to make post-  
16                   secondary educational opportunities more acces-  
17                   sible to residents of such rural areas, or contig-  
18                   uous areas;

19                   “(D) has the present capacity to provide  
20                   resources responsive to the needs and priorities  
21                   of such rural areas and contiguous areas;

22                   “(E) offers a range of professional, tech-  
23                   nical, or graduate programs sufficient to sus-  
24                   tain the capacity of such institution to provide  
25                   such resources; and



1           “(F) has demonstrated and sustained a  
2           sense of responsibility to such rural area and  
3           contiguous areas and the people of such areas.

4   **“SEC. 1179. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; FUND-**  
5           **ING RULE.**

6           “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
7           propriated such sums as may be necessary in each fiscal  
8           year to carry out the provisions of this part.

9           “(b) FUNDING RULE.—If in any fiscal year the  
10          amount appropriated pursuant to the authority of sub-  
11          section (a) is less than 50 percent of the funds appro-  
12          priated to carry out part A in such year, then the Sec-  
13          retary shall make available in such year from funds appro-  
14          priated to carry out part A an amount equal to the dif-  
15          ference between 50 percent of the funds appropriated to  
16          carry out part A and the amount appropriated pursuant  
17          to the authority of subsection (a).”.

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