

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1294

To authorize grants for community telecommunications infrastructure planning and market development, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2003

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. PRYOR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To authorize grants for community telecommunications infrastructure planning and market development, 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 “Community Tele-
5 communications Planning Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLANNING**
7 **GRANTS.**

8 (a) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**—Each Secretary
9 concerned may, using amounts authorized to be appro-

1 priated by the applicable paragraph of subsection (g),
 2 make grants to eligible entities described in subsection (b)
 3 for the community telecommunications infrastructure
 4 planning and market development purposes described in
 5 subsection (c).

6 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible for a
 7 grant under this section is any local or tribal government,
 8 local non-profit entity, cooperative, public utility, or other
 9 public entity that proposes to use the amount of the grant
 10 for the community telecommunications infrastructure
 11 planning and market development purposes described in
 12 subsection (c).

13 (c) COMMUNITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRA-
 14 STRUCTURE PLANNING AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT.—
 15 Amounts from a grant made under this section shall be
 16 used for purposes of facilitating the development of a tele-
 17 communications infrastructure and market development
 18 plan for a locality by various means, including—

19 (1) by encouraging the involvement in the devel-
 20 opment of the plan of interested elements of the
 21 community concerned, including the business com-
 22 munity, governments, telecommunications providers,
 23 and secondary and, where applicable, post-secondary
 24 educational institutions and their students;

1 (2) by enhancing the focus of the development
 2 of the plan on a wide range of telecommunications
 3 needs in the community concerned, including needs
 4 relating to local business, education, health care, and
 5 government;

6 (3) by enhancing the identification of a wide
 7 range of potential solutions for such needs through
 8 advanced telecommunications infrastructure; and

9 (4) by any other means that the Secretary con-
 10 cerned considers appropriate.

11 (d) GRANT PRIORITY FOR PLANNING FOR RURAL
 12 AND UNDERSERVED AREAS.—In making grants under
 13 this section, each Secretary concerned shall give priority
 14 to eligible entities that propose to use the grants for com-
 15 munity telecommunications infrastructure planning and
 16 market development for rural areas or underserved areas.

17 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—Each Secretary concerned
 18 shall establish such administrative requirements for grants
 19 under this section, including requirements for applications
 20 for such grants, as such Secretary considers appropriate.

21 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area”
 23 means any county having a population density of
 24 less than 300 people per square mile as determined
 25 in the 2000 decennial census.

1 (2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
2 retary concerned” means each of the following:

3 (A) The Secretary of Commerce.

4 (B) The Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (C) The Secretary of Education.

6 (3) UNDERSERVED AREA.—The term “under-
7 served area” means any census tract as determined
8 in the 2000 decennial census which is located in—

9 (A) an empowerment zone or enterprise
10 community designated under section 1391 of
11 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

12 (B) the District of Columbia Enterprise
13 Zone established under section 1400 of the In-
14 ternal Revenue Code of 1986;

15 (C) a renewal community designated under
16 section 1400E of the Internal Revenue Code of
17 1986; or

18 (D) a low-income community designated
19 under section 45D of the Internal Revenue
20 Code of 1986.

21 (g) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 is authorized to be appropriated for purposes of making
23 grants under this section—

24 (1) for the Department of Commerce—

25 (A) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

1 (B) such sums as may be necessary for fis-
2 cal year 2005 and each subsequent fiscal year;

3 (2) for the Department of Agriculture—

4 (A) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

5 (B) such sums as may be necessary for fis-
6 cal year 2005 and each subsequent fiscal year;

7 and

8 (3) for the Department of Education—

9 (A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

10 (B) such sums as may be necessary for fis-
11 cal year 2005 and each subsequent fiscal year.

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