

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1144

To improve transit services, including in rural States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. CRAPO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

JUNE 3, 2009

Committee discharged; referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To improve transit services, including in rural States.

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 “Rural Transit Im-
5 provement and Flexibility Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FORMULA GRANTS FOR OTHER THAN URBANIZED**

7 **AREAS.**

8 Section 5311(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code,
9 is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “20 per-
2 cent” and inserting “25 percent”; and

3 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “80 per-
4 cent” and inserting “75 percent”.

5 **SEC. 3. FLEXIBLE USE OF ELDERLY AND DISABLED FUND-**
6 **ING.**

7 Section 5310 of title 49, United States Code, is
8 amended by—

9 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(5) OPERATING COSTS.—A State may use not
12 more than 25 percent of the amounts apportioned to
13 the State under this section for operating costs of
14 equipment and facilities that are or have been fund-
15 ed in whole or part under this section.”; and

16 (2) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
18 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

19 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
20 following:

21 “(2) OPERATING ASSISTANCE.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
23 subparagraph (B), a grant made under this sec-
24 tion for operating assistance may not exceed 50

1 percent of the net operating costs of the
2 project, as determined by the Secretary.

3 “(B) EXCEPTION.—A State described in
4 section 120(b) of title 23 shall receive a Gov-
5 ernment share of the net operating costs equal
6 to 62.5 percent of the Government share pro-
7 vided for under paragraph (1)(B).”.

8 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM FOR TRANSIT CENTERS IN SMALL-**
9 **ER CITIES AND TOWNS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 of title 49, United
11 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5311
12 the following:

13 **“§ 5311a. Pilot program for transit centers in smaller**
14 **cities and towns**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
16 program (referred to in this section as the ‘program’) of
17 grants to eligible States for the purpose of establishing
18 transit centers in urbanized areas with a population of less
19 than 200,000 and in areas other than urbanized areas.
20 Such transit centers may include multimodal transpor-
21 tation centers that include transit centers.

22 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to
23 facilitate the development of transit service in areas that,
24 historically, may not have received adequate attention to
25 the development of transit service by providing facilities

1 that have the potential to be transformational with respect
2 to the provision of improved transit service in a commu-
3 nity.

4 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

5 “(1) the term ‘eligible State’ means a State
6 with a population density of less than 100 persons
7 per square mile of land area, based on the most re-
8 cent decennial census at the time an application is
9 filed; and

10 “(2) the definitions of ‘recipient’ and ‘sub-
11 recipient’ in section 5311(a) shall apply.

12 “(d) PROCEDURES.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
14 administrative procedures and requirements for the
15 implementation of this section, including any appli-
16 cation procedures, and may pattern such procedures
17 and requirements after requirements applicable to
18 discretionary bus grants under section 5309, but
19 shall streamline such processes and limit require-
20 ments to the maximum extent possible, to facilitate
21 prompt implementation of the program and to mini-
22 mize the regulatory burden on grant recipients and
23 subrecipients.

24 “(2) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall de-
25 velop proposed procedures under this subsection and

1 publish them in the Federal Register for comment
2 within 60 days of the date of enactment of this sec-
3 tion. Final procedures shall be adopted within 60
4 days of the close of said comment period.

5 “(e) DISTRIBUTION.—In distributing funds pursuant
6 to this section—

7 “(1) the Secretary shall, prior to the completion
8 of fiscal year 2012, award grants to establish at
9 least one such center in each eligible State, provided
10 that satisfactory applications have been filed from
11 each eligible State in a timely manner to enable such
12 distribution; and

13 “(2) prior to the completion of fiscal year 2015,
14 shall award grants to establish at least 2 such cen-
15 ters in each eligible State, provided that satisfactory
16 applications have been filed from each eligible State
17 in a timely manner to enable such distribution.

18 “(f) ADMINISTRATION COSTS.—A recipient may use
19 not more than 10 percent of amounts awarded under this
20 section for a project to administer, plan, and provide tech-
21 nical assistance for that project funded under this section.
22 A recipient may allocate to a subrecipient all or part of
23 the amount the recipient may use under this subsection
24 to administer, plan, and provide technical assistance for
25 a project.

1 “(g) ELIGIBLE EXPENSES AND GOVERNMENT
2 SHARE.—Except for administrative expenses authorized
3 under subsection (f), grants under this program shall be
4 only for capital expenses, including buildings, facilities for
5 the maintenance and repair of buses and other transit ve-
6 hicles, off street transit vehicle stop space and transit vehi-
7 cle parking space, passenger seating areas, and other cap-
8 ital expenditures as the Secretary may determine appro-
9 priate. The Government share of capital costs under this
10 section shall be 100 percent.”.

11 (b) FUNDING.—From the Mass Transit Account of
12 the Highway Trust Fund there shall be made available
13 to carry out the program established pursuant to section
14 5311a of title 49, United States Code, \$25,000,000 for
15 fiscal year 2010 and \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
16 2011 through 2015. All such amounts are to remain avail-
17 able until expended.

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