

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7683

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to make projects that directly or indirectly increase the accessibility of affordable, quality child care eligible for certain grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2020

Ms. FINKENAUER (for herself and Mr. HAGEDORN) 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 the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to make projects that directly or indirectly increase the accessibility of affordable, quality child care eligible for certain grants, 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 “Affordable Child Care
5 for Economic Strategies and Success Act” or the “AC-
6 CESS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DE-**
2 **VELOPMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Public Works
4 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141)
5 is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “; and”
8 and inserting a semicolon;

9 (B) in paragraph (2) by striking the period
10 and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(3) planning, developing, or creating a project
13 or facility that will directly or indirectly increase the
14 accessibility of affordable, quality child care.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (B) by striking “; or”
17 and inserting a semicolon;

18 (B) in subparagraph (C) by striking the
19 semicolon and inserting “; or”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(D) increase the accessibility of afford-
22 able, quality child care;”.

23 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
25 Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of Health
26 and Human Services, shall issue such regulations as are

1 necessary to establish criteria for whether a project di-
2 rectly or indirectly increases the accessibility of affordable,
3 quality child care. Such criteria shall consider:

4 (1) The availability, validity, and accessibility of
5 timely data.

6 (2) The extent to which a project contributes to
7 a family's financial security.

8 (3) The extent to which a project address child
9 care needs in child care deserts or areas otherwise
10 recognized as being in shortage.

11 (c) CHILD CARE DESERT DEFINED.—In this section,
12 the term “child care desert” means—

13 (1) an area—

14 (A) within a census tract; and

15 (B) in which the number of children who
16 are under age 5 (as determined using the most
17 recent American Community Survey 1-year Es-
18 timates, as published by the Bureau of the Cen-
19 sus) is more than 3 times the number of slots
20 provided by child care providers who are li-
21 censed or registered by the State involved; or

22 (2) a community that the State or tribal entity
23 involved determines has a low supply of quality, af-
24 fordable child care.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMIN-**
2 **ISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

3 Section 203(b)(4) of the Public Works and Economic
4 Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143(b)(4)) is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 “(4) formulating and implementing an economic
7 development program that includes systematic ef-
8 forts to—

9 “(A) reduce unemployment and increase
10 incomes; or

11 “(B) increase the accessibility of afford-
12 able, quality child care.”.

13 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECH-**
14 **NICAL ASSISTANCE.**

15 Section 207(a)(2) of the Public Works and Economic
16 Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147(a)(2)) is
17 amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (H) by striking “; and”;

19 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as sub-
20 paragraph (J); and

21 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(I) the planning, development, or creation
24 of a project or facility that will directly or indi-
25 rectly increase the accessibility of affordable,
26 quality child care; and”.

1 **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
2 **STRATEGIES.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 302(a)(3)(A) of the Pub-
4 lic Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
5 U.S.C. 3162(a)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting “(includ-
6 ing by directly or indirectly increasing the accessibility of
7 affordable, quality child care)” after “promotes economic
8 development and opportunity”.

9 (b) **GUIDANCE.**—In carrying out the amendment
10 made under subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce,
11 in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human
12 Services, shall issue guidance on how to include the acces-
13 sibility of affordable, quality child care in a comprehensive
14 economic development strategy developed under section
15 302 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act
16 of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162).

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