

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2375

To amend title 40, United States Code, to relocate the headquarters of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2019

Mr. MANCHIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend title 40, United States Code, to relocate the headquarters of the Appalachian 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 “ARC Relocation Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. HEADQUARTERS OF THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL**  
6 **COMMISSION.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) Senate Report 115–258, accompanying S.  
9 2975 (115th Congress), contained bipartisan lan-  
10 guage expressing a belief that “if the Appalachian

1 Regional Commission is going to move, it should  
2 move to the State of West Virginia”;

3 (2) the greater Washington, DC, metropolitan  
4 area accounts for 22 percent of the Federal work-  
5 force, yet only accounts for less than 2 percent of  
6 the population of the United States;

7 (3) the headquarters of the Delta Regional Au-  
8 thority, the Denali Commission, and the Northern  
9 Border Regional Commission are already  
10 headquartered in their respective regions;

11 (4) headquartering a regional commission with-  
12 in the jurisdiction of the commission can reduce ad-  
13 ministrative overhead, increase accountability to the  
14 people the commission was designed to serve, and  
15 enhance confidence in the work of that commission;

16 (5) the Appalachian Regional Commission is an  
17 economic development agency focused on the Appa-  
18 lachian region and representing a partnership of  
19 Federal, State, and local governments across 13  
20 States;

21 (6) despite the reach of the Appalachian Re-  
22 gional Commission across 13 States, West Virginia  
23 remains the only State fully within the jurisdiction  
24 of the Appalachian Regional Commission;

1           (7) West Virginia is located at the midpoint of  
2 the Appalachian region;

3           (8) West Virginia is central to the creation of  
4 the Appalachian Regional Commission;

5           (9) following the visit of President John F.  
6 Kennedy to West Virginia during his presidential  
7 campaign in 1960, he was moved by the poverty he  
8 observed there and he worked to create the Appa-  
9 lachian Regional Commission through an Act of  
10 Congress in 1965;

11           (10) the Appalachian Regional Commission is  
12 critical to assisting communities impacted by the de-  
13 cline of the coal industry as well as the opioid crisis,  
14 and no State has seen a greater impact from these  
15 issues than West Virginia;

16           (11) one of the top goals of the Appalachian  
17 Regional Commission is to spur economic opportuni-  
18 ties in the Appalachian region by investing in strate-  
19 gies that strengthen the economy of the region; and

20           (12) an effective way to achieve the goal re-  
21 ferred to in paragraph (11) is to directly invest in  
22 the region by relocating the workforce of the Appa-  
23 lachian Regional Commission to the region itself.

1       (b) HEADQUARTERS.—Section 14301 of title 40,  
2 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
3 following:

4       “(g) HEADQUARTERS.—The headquarters of the  
5 Commission shall be located in the State of West Vir-  
6 ginia.”.

7       (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Federal Co-Chairman  
8 of the Appalachian Regional Commission shall take such  
9 actions as may be necessary to carry out the amendment  
10 made by subsection (b).

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