

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5570

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a grant program to rebuild and improve transportation infrastructure at urban waterfronts, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

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

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a grant program to rebuild and improve transportation infrastructure at urban waterfronts, 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 “Constructing Resilient
5 and Enduring Waterfronts Act” or the “CREW Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSTRUCTING RESILIENT AND ENDURING WATER-**
 2 **FRONTS PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 23, United
 4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 5 lowing:

6 **“§ 180. Constructing Resilient and Enduring Water-**
 7 **fronts program**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
 10 the Constructing Resilient and Enduring Water-
 11 fronts program established under subsection (b).

12 “(2) URBAN WATERFRONT.—The term ‘urban
 13 waterfront’ means an area of land within an urban-
 14 ized area that is in the vicinity of a major river,
 15 lake, estuary, or ocean that—

16 “(A) includes land immediately adjacent to
 17 that body of water; and

18 “(B) is planned or used for multiple uses,
 19 including residential and commercial uses, pub-
 20 lic parks and green space, and infrastructure to
 21 support such uses.

22 “(3) URBAN WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT
 23 PLAN.—The term ‘urban waterfront development
 24 plan’ means a plan that—

25 “(A) considers the improvement of all, or
 26 1 or more parts, of an urban waterfront for the

1 purposes of economic development, housing,
2 safety, and resilience to flooding and extreme
3 weather; and

4 “(B) identifies a need for not less than
5 \$200,000,000 in investments for transportation,
6 public spaces, and other infrastructure at the
7 urban waterfront.

8 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
9 lish a program, to be known as the ‘Constructing Resilient
10 and Enduring Waterfronts program’, to provide grants,
11 on a competitive basis, to rebuild and improve transpor-
12 tation infrastructure at urban waterfronts.

13 “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are—

14 “(1) to improve the resilience of public space
15 and public infrastructure from extreme weather
16 events, flooding, and rising sea levels;

17 “(2) to improve circulation and access to water-
18 front resources for the general public;

19 “(3) to unlock the economic benefits of urban
20 waterfronts; and

21 “(4) to restore and improve air quality and
22 water quality at urban waterfronts.

23 “(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
24 ceive a grant under the program is any of the following:

25 “(1) A State or political subdivision of a State.

1 “(2) A metropolitan planning organization.

2 “(3) A unit of local government.

3 “(4) A special purpose district or public author-
4 ity established for the purpose of implementing an
5 urban waterfront development plan.

6 “(5) A nonprofit entity established and author-
7 ized by a State to implement an urban waterfront
8 development plan.

9 “(e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
10 under the program, an eligible entity described in sub-
11 section (d) shall submit to the Secretary an application
12 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-
13 mation as the Secretary may require.

14 “(f) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Funds from a grant under
15 the program may be used for—

16 “(1) reconstruction and realignment of the
17 street network at the urban waterfront in order—

18 “(A) to expand access to the waterfront to
19 larger numbers of visitors;

20 “(B) to calm traffic; or

21 “(C) to provide safer conditions for people
22 using nonmotorized transportation;

23 “(2) construction of pedestrian walkways at the
24 urban waterfront;

1 “(3) construction or improvement of green in-
2 frastructure at the urban waterfront—

3 “(A) to improve natural conditions;

4 “(B) to strengthen resilience; or

5 “(C) to provide flood protection;

6 “(4) construction or improvement of infrastruc-
7 ture at the urban waterfront providing resilience and
8 protection against flooding and sea level rise, such
9 as seawalls;

10 “(5) activities to repair or improve utilities re-
11 quired by or associated with construction of road-
12 ways or other transportation infrastructure at the
13 urban waterfront;

14 “(6) changes or improvements to stormwater
15 infrastructure at the urban waterfront;

16 “(7) installation, replacement, or repair of
17 lighting, signage, or planting at the urban water-
18 front; or

19 “(8) activities eligible under section 133(h).

20 “(g) URBAN WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
22 grant under the program, an eligible entity described
23 in subsection (d) shall—

24 “(A) demonstrate that there is in effect for
25 the urban waterfront an urban waterfront de-

1 development plan that was developed by the appli-
 2 cable unit of local government through a robust
 3 process of public engagement;

4 “(B) demonstrate that the urban water-
 5 front development plan has taken into consider-
 6 ation the best available science and data re-
 7 garding the vulnerabilities of the urban water-
 8 front to flooding caused by sea level rise or ex-
 9 treme weather events; and

10 “(C) demonstrate the need for imple-
 11 menting the project as part of the urban water-
 12 front development plan in terms of the progress
 13 the project would make toward achieving 1 or
 14 more purposes described in subsection (c).

15 “(2) MULTIPLE EXISTING PLANS.—The Sec-
 16 retary may determine that an eligible entity has
 17 made the demonstration described in paragraph
 18 (1)(A) through a combination of existing plans.

19 “(3) INCLUSION.—A project eligible to be car-
 20 ried out under the program shall be within the scope
 21 of the applicable urban waterfront development plan.

22 “(h) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant provided under the
 23 program shall be not less than \$30,000,000.

24 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 25 authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust

1 Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) to carry out
2 the program \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
3 through 2031.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
5 ter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by insert-
6 ing after the item relating to section 179 the following:

“180. Constructing Resilient and Enduring Waterfronts program.”.

