

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3687

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Manufacturing Communities Support Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Manufacturing Communities Support Program, 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 “Made in America Man-
5 ufacturing Communities Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

8 (1) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUM.—The term “eligi-
9 ble consortium” means a consortium that meets the

1 eligibility criteria established by the Secretary under
2 subsection (c)(2)(A).

3 (2) MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY.—The term
4 “manufacturing community” means an eligible con-
5 sortium designated by the Secretary under sub-
6 section (c)(1).

7 (3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
8 “nonprofit organization” means an organization ex-
9 empt from taxation and described in paragraph (3),
10 (5), or (6) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue
11 Code of 1986.

12 (4) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
13 the Manufacturing Communities Support Program
14 established under subsection (b)(1).

15 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of Commerce.

17 (6) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
18 “small business concern” means the term as defined
19 under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15
20 U.S.C. 632).

21 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
23 a program to be known as the “Manufacturing Com-
24 munities Support Program”, under which the Sec-

1 retary shall designate and support eligible consor-
2 tiums as manufacturing communities.

3 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program
4 shall be to strengthen the manufacturing base of the
5 United States by making long-term investments in
6 manufacturing communities by supporting—

7 (A) critical skills;

8 (B) facilities;

9 (C) research and development; and

10 (D) small business concerns.

11 (c) DESIGNATION OF MANUFACTURING COMMU-
12 NITIES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall des-
14 ignate an eligible consortium as a manufacturing
15 community through a competitive process.

16 (2) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUMS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
18 tablish criteria for a consortium to be eligible
19 for a designation as a manufacturing commu-
20 nity under paragraph (1).

21 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing eli-
22 gibility criteria under subparagraph (A), the
23 Secretary shall consider the merits of—

24 (i) including members from academia,
25 commercial industry, nonprofit organiza-

tions, and State and local governmental organizations;

(ii) supporting efforts in geographical regions that have capabilities in key technologies or manufacturing base supply chains that the Secretary determines to be critical to codifying the supply chains of the United States; and

(iii) the optimal composition and size of a consortium to promote effectiveness, collaboration, and efficiency.

(3) DURATION.—Each designation under paragraph (1) shall be for a 5-year period.

(4) RENEWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may renew a designation made under paragraph (1) for not more than 2 additional 2-year periods.

(B) CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for the renewal of a designation under subparagraph (A).

(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing criteria for a renewal under clause (i) the Secretary shall consider, with re-

1 spect to the manufacturing community
2 seeking a renewal—

3 (I) the performance of the manu-
4 facturing community in meeting the
5 established goals of the Program;

6 (II) the progress the manufac-
7 turing community has made with re-
8 spect to project-specific metrics, par-
9 ticularly with respect to metrics de-
10 signed to help manufacturing commu-
11 nities track their own progress;

12 (III) whether any changes to the
13 composition of the manufacturing
14 community or revisions of the plan of
15 the manufacturing community would
16 improve the capabilities of the manu-
17 facturing base of the United States;
18 and

19 (IV) any other criteria the Sec-
20 retary determines appropriate.

21 (5) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium
23 seeking a designation under paragraph (1) shall
24 submit an application to the Secretary at such

1 time and in such manner as the Secretary may
2 require.

3 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing ap-
4 plication procedures under subparagraph (A),
5 the Secretary shall consider the inclusion of,
6 with respect to an eligible consortium—

7 (i) a description of the regional
8 boundaries of the eligible consortium and
9 the manufacturing capacity of the region;

10 (ii) an evidence-based plan for en-
11 hancing the manufacturing base in the
12 United States through the efforts of the el-
13 igible consortium;

14 (iii) the investments the eligible con-
15 sortium proposes and the strategy of the
16 eligible consortium to address gaps in the
17 manufacturing base of the United States;

18 (iv) a description of the outcome-
19 based metrics, benchmarks, and milestones
20 that will track and the evaluation methods
21 that will be used to gauge performance of
22 the eligible consortium;

23 (v) a plan to ensure that members of
24 the eligible consortium are representative

1 of the proposed location of the manufac-
2 turing community;

3 (vi) a community that had previously
4 received a designation by the Investing in
5 Manufacturing Communities Partnership
6 of the Economic Development Administra-
7 tion; and

8 (vii) any other matters the Secretary
9 determines appropriate.

10 (C) STRATEGIC PLANNING ASSISTANCE.—

11 The Secretary shall provide strategic planning
12 assistance for eligible consortiums that lack ex-
13 perience applying for Federal assistance to en-
14 sure such eligible consortiums may submit an
15 application that meets the procedures estab-
16 lished by the Secretary under this paragraph.

17 (d) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—As appropriate and for pur-
19 poses of the Program, the Secretary may award fi-
20 nancial or technical assistance to a member of an el-
21 igible consortium that has been designated as a
22 manufacturing community.

23 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of financial or
24 technical assistance under paragraph (1) shall use
25 the financial or technical assistance to support an

1 investment that will improve the manufacturing base
 2 of the United States.

3 (3) INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED.—Investments
 4 supported under this subsection may include activi-
 5 ties relating to—

6 (A) equipment or facility upgrades;

7 (B) workforce training, retraining, or re-
 8 cruitment and retention, including for women,
 9 underrepresented minorities, and veterans;

10 (C) business incubators;

11 (D) advanced research and commercializa-
 12 tion, including with Federal laboratories and
 13 depots;

14 (E) supply chain development; and

15 (F) assistance for small business concerns.

16 (e) OTHER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
 17 may make a Federal point of contact available to each eli-
 18 gible consortium designated as a manufacturing commu-
 19 nity to help such consortium and the members of such
 20 consortium access Federal financial and technical assist-
 21 ance.

22 (f) RECEIPT OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—The Sec-
 23 retary may accept amounts transferred to the Secretary
 24 from the head of an agency or a State or local govern-
 25 mental organization to carry out this section.

1 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 6 years after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
3 to the Congress, and make publicly available, a report that
4 identifies the best practices for an eligible consortium—
5 (1) to be designated as a manufacturing com-
6 munity; and
7 (2) to renew the manufacturing community des-
8 ignation.

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