

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 900

To amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Southern New England Regional Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 2021

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Southern New England 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 “Southern New England
5 Regional Commission Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND RE-**
 2 **GIONAL COMMISSION.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40,
 4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
 5 following:

6 “(4) The Southern New England Regional
 7 Commission.”.

8 (b) PURPOSES FOR ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUC-
 9 TURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—Section 15501 of title
 10 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection
 11 (a) and inserting the following:

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may make grants
 13 to States and local governments, Indian Tribes, and public
 14 and nonprofit organizations for projects, approved in ac-
 15 cordance with section 15503—

16 “(1) to develop the transportation infrastruc-
 17 ture of the region of the Commission;

18 “(2) to develop the basic public infrastructure
 19 of the region of the Commission;

20 “(3) to develop the telecommunications infra-
 21 structure of the region of the Commission;

22 “(4) to assist the region of the Commission in
 23 obtaining job skills training, skills development and
 24 employment-related education, career pathways, ap-
 25 prenticeship opportunities, entrepreneurship, tech-
 26 nology, job coaching to address the cliff effect, work

1 supports (including child care), and business devel-
2 opment;

3 “(5) to provide assistance to severely economi-
4 cally distressed and underdeveloped areas of a region
5 that lack financial resources for improving—

6 “(A) basic health care;

7 “(B) two-generational practices that im-
8 prove school and workforce readiness and suc-
9 cess; and

10 “(C) other public services, including work
11 supports critical for families seeking employ-
12 ment, which may include quality child care,
13 transportation, health, and housing;

14 “(6) to promote resource conservation, tourism,
15 recreation, and preservation of open space in a man-
16 ner consistent with economic development goals;

17 “(7) to promote the development of renewable
18 and alternative energy sources;

19 “(8) to support the maritime economy, includ-
20 ing boat and ship building and repair industries;

21 “(9) to assist in developing defense manufac-
22 turing industries;

23 “(10) to promote the adoption of composite and
24 other innovative materials in public transportation;

1 “(11) to grow the capacity for successful com-
 2 munity economic development in the region of the
 3 Commission;

4 “(12) to provide for employment training for
 5 populations seeking employment, including parents
 6 in poverty, adults in recovery, and reentry adults, in
 7 areas with worker shortages; and

8 “(13) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this
 9 subtitle.”.

10 (c) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter
 12 157 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by
 13 adding at the end the following:

14 **“§ 15734. Southern New England Regional Commis-**
 15 **sion**

16 “The region of the Southern New England Regional
 17 Commission shall include the following counties:

18 “(1) RHODE ISLAND.—Each county in the
 19 State of Rhode Island.

20 “(2) CONNECTICUT.—The counties of Hartford,
 21 New Haven, Windham, Tolland, Middlesex, and New
 22 London in the State of Connecticut.

23 “(3) MASSACHUSETTS.—The counties of
 24 Hampden, Plymouth, Barnstable, Essex, Worcester,
 25 and Bristol in the State of Massachusetts.”.

1 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
2 subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
4 following:

“15734. Southern New England Regional Commission.”.

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