

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4780

To establish a Government corporation to provide loans and loan guarantees for infrastructure projects, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 22, 2019

Mr. CARBAJAL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To establish a Government corporation to provide loans and loan guarantees for infrastructure projects, 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 “National Infrastruc-  
5 ture Investment Corporation Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to the American Society of Civil  
9 Engineers 2017 Infrastructure Report, the current  
10 condition of the infrastructure in the United States

1 earns a grade of D+ and an estimated  
2 \$4,500,000,000,000 is needed by 2025 to make con-  
3 ditions adequate.

4 (2) Current and foreseeable demands on tradi-  
5 tional funding for infrastructure expansion exceed  
6 the resources to support much-needed infrastructure  
7 programs.

8 (3) As of April 19, 2019, the top 50 strategic  
9 infrastructure projects, including transportation,  
10 water and wastewater, ports and waterways, and  
11 telecommunications, totaled \$289,370,000,000 in  
12 unmet needs.

13 (4) Infrastructure needs are not limited to tra-  
14 ditional roads and bridges but include a wide sector  
15 of basic, physical, and organizational structures and  
16 facilities that are needed for the effective and pro-  
17 ductive operation of society.

18 (5) Investment in infrastructure not only cre-  
19 ates jobs and economic growth and is a key compo-  
20 nent of maintaining a global competitive edge but is  
21 also fundamental to enhancing and preserving qual-  
22 ity of life.

23 (6) The establishment of a Government cor-  
24 poration that provides loans supported by pension  
25 funds to finance qualified infrastructure projects

1 would attract needed supplemental capital for infra-  
2 structure development.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 There is established a corporation to be known as the  
5 “National Infrastructure Investment Corporation” (in this  
6 Act referred to as the “Corporation”), which shall be a  
7 Government corporation as defined in section 103 of title  
8 5, United States Code, whose purpose shall be to finance  
9 infrastructure projects that are beyond the financing capa-  
10 bilities of States and cities, including—

11 (1) prioritizing projects in a fair and efficient  
12 manner; and

13 (2) minimizing financial costs to the Federal  
14 government.

15 **SEC. 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The management of the Cor-  
17 poration shall be vested in a board of directors (in this  
18 Act referred to as the “Board”).

19 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of  
20 7 members that meet the qualifications under subsection  
21 (c), consisting of—

22 (1) 3 members appointed by the President, by  
23 and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

24 (2) 1 member appointed by the majority leader  
25 of the Senate;

1           (3) 1 member appointed by the minority leader  
2 of the Senate;

3           (4) 1 member appointed by the Speaker of the  
4 House of Representatives; and

5           (5) 1 member appointed by the minority leader  
6 of the House of Representatives.

7           (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each member of the Board  
8 shall—

9           (1) be a citizen of the United States;

10          (2) have significant demonstrated experience or  
11 expertise in—

12           (A) infrastructure, and with respect to in-  
13 frastructure, experience or expertise in—

14                   (i) heavy construction;

15                   (ii) labor; or

16                   (iii) government policy;

17           (B) the financing, development, or oper-  
18 ation of infrastructure projects, including the  
19 evaluation and selection of eligible projects; or

20           (C) the management and administration of  
21 a financial institution that provides financing  
22 for infrastructure projects; and

23          (3) represent different geographic regions of the  
24 United States to ensure rural areas and small com-  
25 munities are represented.

1 (d) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 30 days  
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the President and  
3 congressional leadership shall appoint the members of the  
4 Board in accordance with subsections (b) and (c).

5 (e) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Board shall be des-  
6 ignated by the President from among the members ap-  
7 pointed under subsection (b).

8 (f) TERMS.—Each member of the Board shall hold  
9 office for a term of 5 years, except as provided in the fol-  
10 lowing paragraphs:

11 (1) TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As des-  
12 ignated by the President and congressional leader-  
13 ship at the time of appointment—

14 (A) the Chair shall be appointed for a term  
15 of 5 years;

16 (B) the 4 members appointed by congress-  
17 sional leadership shall be appointed for a term  
18 of 4 years; and

19 (C) the 2 members appointed by the Presi-  
20 dent shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

21 (2) VACANCIES.—Vacancies shall be filled ac-  
22 cording to the following:

23 (A) A vacancy shall be filled in the manner  
24 in which the original appointment was made.

1           (B) Any Board member elected to fill a va-  
2           cancy occurring before the expiration of the  
3           term for which the direct predecessor of the  
4           member was appointed shall be appointed only  
5           for the remainder of that term.

6           (C) In accordance with subparagraph (B),  
7           a Board member may serve after the expiration  
8           of the term of the direct predecessor of the  
9           Board member until a successor has taken of-  
10          fice.

11          (g) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD.—The respon-  
12          sibilities of the Board are as follows:

13               (1) Provide low-cost loans and loan guarantees  
14               to eligible applicants under section 5.

15               (2) Develop strategic goals for the Corporation  
16               based on the purpose of the Corporation.

17               (3) Monitor and assess the effectiveness of the  
18               Corporation in achieving such strategic goals.

19               (4) Review and approve the annual business  
20               plans, annual budgets, and long-term strategies of  
21               and for infrastructure projects financed through the  
22               Corporation.

23               (5) Develop, review, and approve annual reports  
24               for the Corporation.

1           (6) Employ at least 1 external auditor to con-  
2           duct an annual audit of such infrastructure projects.

3           (7) Employ individuals as necessary to carry  
4           out the provisions of this Act.

5           (8) Determine the operations and internal poli-  
6           cies of the Corporation.

7           (h) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The Board shall appoint  
8           an employee of the Corporation to be known as the “In-  
9           spector General” whose duties shall include the following:

10           (1) Conduct audits under section 6(b).

11           (2) Carry out, with respect to the Corporation,  
12           duties and responsibilities established under the In-  
13           spector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

14           (3) Establish, maintain, and oversee such au-  
15           dits as the Inspector General considers appropriate  
16           under this Act.

17 **SEC. 5. LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES.**

18           (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Corporation shall  
19           provide loans and loan guarantees to eligible applicants  
20           for infrastructure projects in the United States.

21           (b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—An applicant is  
22           eligible for a loan or loan guarantee under this section if  
23           the applicant—

24           (1) submits a detailed letter of interest to the  
25           Corporation that—

1 (A) describes the infrastructure project  
2 and the location, purpose, and cost of the  
3 project;

4 (B) outlines the proposed financial plan  
5 with respect to such project, including the re-  
6 quested loan or loan guarantee amount and the  
7 proposed obligor;

8 (C) provides a status of environmental re-  
9 view; and

10 (D) summarizes the geographic area af-  
11 fected by such project;

12 (2) meets the prerequisites for assistance and  
13 conditions for assistance described in subsections (g)  
14 and (h) of section 502 of the Railroad Revitalization  
15 and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C.  
16 822(g) and (h)).

17 (c) ELIGIBLE USES.—Loans and loan guarantees  
18 provided under this section may be used only for eligible  
19 project costs (as defined in section 601(a)(2) of title 23,  
20 United States Code) for infrastructure projects, including  
21 transportation, energy, environment, and telecommuni-  
22 cations.

23 (d) CONSULTATION.—Prior to approving a loan or  
24 loan guarantee under this section, the Corporation shall  
25 require the applicant to consult with any member of the



1 House of Representatives or member of the Senate whose  
2 district or State, respectively, is affected by the infrastruc-  
3 ture project to ensure that such project is meritorious and  
4 to avoid any problems that may arise with respect to such  
5 project.

6 (e) TIMING.—A loan provided under subsection (a)  
7 shall be structured with respect to the expected timing and  
8 duration of the construction and utility of an infrastruc-  
9 ture project.

10 (f) TIFIA.—Except as inconsistent with this Act, the  
11 Corporation shall provide for loans and loan guarantees  
12 under this section in the same manner and subject to the  
13 same requirements as the Secretary of Transportation en-  
14 ters into loans and loan agreements under section 602 of  
15 chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, with respect  
16 to the TIFIA program (as defined in section 601 of such  
17 title).

18 **SEC. 6. AUDITS AND REPORTS.**

19 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year  
20 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
21 thereafter, the Board shall submit to Congress a report  
22 on the activities of the Corporation.

23 (b) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Not later than one year after  
24 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
25 the Inspector General of the Corporation shall—

1           (1) conduct an account audit of the Corpora-  
2           tion;

3           (2) conduct, supervise, and coordinate inves-  
4           tigations of the business activities of the Corpora-  
5           tion;

6           (3) ensure that the Corporation is acting con-  
7           sistent with this Act; and

8           (4) submit the results of such audit to Con-  
9           gress.

10          (c) GAO AUDIT AND REPORT.—Not later than 5  
11         years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every  
12         5 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United  
13         States shall—

14                 (1) conduct an evaluation of the activities of the  
15                 Corporation from the previous 5 fiscal years; and

16                 (2) submit to Congress a report containing the  
17                 results of such evaluation, which shall include—

18                         (A) an assessment of the impact and bene-  
19                         fits of each infrastructure project financed  
20                         through the Corporation; and

21                         (B) a review of the effectiveness of such in-  
22                         frastructure project in accomplishing the goals  
23                         of this Act.

24          (d) APPLICATION WAITING PERIOD.—Before any  
25         loan or loan guarantee is awarded under this Act, the Cor-

1 poration shall submit to Congress a report describing the  
2 application for such loan or loan guarantee. The Corpora-  
3 tion may not award the loan or loan agreement before the  
4 end of the 60-day period following the submission of such  
5 report to Congress. The Corporation may award the loan  
6 or loan agreement after such period unless Congress en-  
7 acts a joint resolution disapproving the application with  
8 an explanation for such disapproval.

9 (e) REJECTED APPLICATIONS.—An application that  
10 is rejected under subsection (d) shall not be resubmitted  
11 to the Corporation unless the basis for the disapproval of  
12 the application has been addressed by the resubmitted ap-  
13 plication.

14 **SEC. 7. FUNDING.**

15 (a) PENSION FUND LOANS.—For purposes of paying  
16 for the administrative costs of the Corporation and to pro-  
17 vide loans and loan guarantees for eligible infrastructure  
18 projects, the Board may accept loans during fiscal years  
19 2020 through 2024 from pension funds.

20 (b) LIMITATION.—The Board may not accept more  
21 than \$5,000,000,000 in loans under subsection (a) during  
22 any single fiscal year.

23 (c) ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE.—With respect to a  
24 loan described under subsection (a), the Board may not

- 1 pay an annual percentage rate of less than 3 percent or
- 2 more than 4 percent.

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