

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1049

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to make projects that directly or indirectly increase the accessibility of child care eligible for certain grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2021

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to make projects that directly or indirectly increase the accessibility of child care eligible for certain grants, 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 “Affordable Child Care
5 for Economic Strategies and Success Act” or the “AC-
6 CESS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DE-**
2 **VELOPMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Public Works
4 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141)
5 is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”
8 after the semicolon at the end;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
10 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(3) planning, developing, or creating a project
13 or facility that will directly or indirectly increase the
14 accessibility of child care.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”
17 at the end;

18 (B) in subparagraph (C), by adding “or”
19 after the semicolon at the end; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(D) increase the accessibility of child
22 care;”.

23 (b) REGULATIONS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
26 retary of Commerce, in consultation with the Sec-

1 retary of Health and Human Services, shall issue
2 such regulations as are necessary to establish cri-
3 teria for whether, for purposes of section 201 of the
4 Public Works and Economic Development Act of
5 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141), a project directly or indi-
6 rectly increases the accessibility of child care.

7 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The criteria referred to
8 in paragraph (1) shall take into consideration the
9 following:

10 (A) The availability, validity, and accessi-
11 bility of timely data.

12 (B) The extent to which a project contrib-
13 utes to the financial security of a family.

14 (C) The extent to which a project address-
15 es child care needs in areas recognized as expe-
16 riencing a child care shortage.

17 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMIN-**
18 **ISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

19 Section 203(b) of the Public Works and Economic
20 Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143(b)) is amended
21 by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

22 “(4) formulating and implementing an economic
23 development program that includes systematic ef-
24 forts—

1 “(A) to reduce unemployment and increase
2 incomes; or

3 “(B) to increase the accessibility of child
4 care.”.

5 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECH-**
6 **NICAL ASSISTANCE.**

7 Section 207(a)(2) of the Public Works and Economic
8 Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147(a)(2)) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and”
11 after the semicolon at the end;

12 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as sub-
13 paragraph (J); and

14 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(I) the planning, development, or creation
17 of a project or facility that will directly or indi-
18 rectly increase the accessibility of child care;
19 and”.

20 **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
21 **STRATEGIES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302(a)(3)(A) of the Pub-
23 lic Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
24 U.S.C. 3162(a)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting “(includ-
25 ing by directly or indirectly increasing the accessibility of

1 child care)” after “promotes economic development and
2 opportunity”.

3 (b) GUIDANCE.—In carrying out the amendment
4 made by subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce, in
5 consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human
6 Services, shall issue guidance on how to include the acces-
7 sibility of child care in a comprehensive economic develop-
8 ment strategy developed under section 302 of the Public
9 Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
10 U.S.C. 3162).

○