

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3169

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish university centers to encourage certain economic development, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 31, 2023

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish university centers to encourage certain economic development, 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 “University Centers for  
5 Growth, Development, and Prosperity Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY UNIVERSITY**  
2 **CENTERS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 207 of the Public  
4 Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42  
5 U.S.C. 3147) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(D), by inserting “in ac-  
7 cordance with subsection (c)” after “university cen-  
8 ters”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(c) UNIVERSITY CENTERS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make  
12 awards to institutions of higher education for such  
13 institutions to serve as university centers.

14 “(2) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.—The Secretary  
15 shall ensure that at least one university center is es-  
16 tablished in each State to provide services in such  
17 State.

18 “(3) PRIORITIZATION OF HISTORICALLY BLACK  
19 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, TRIBAL COLLEGES  
20 AND UNIVERSITIES, HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITU-  
21 TIONS, AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—In  
22 establishing university centers under this subsection,  
23 the Secretary shall prioritize institutions of higher  
24 education that are eligible to receive funds under  
25 section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
26 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

1           “(4) DUTIES.—The university centers estab-  
2           lished under this subsection, to the extent prac-  
3           ticable, shall—

4                   “(A) collaborate with other university cen-  
5                   ters;

6                   “(B) collaborate with economic develop-  
7                   ment districts, trade adjustment assistance cen-  
8                   ters, Hollings Manufacturing Extension Part-  
9                   nership Centers of the National Institute of  
10                  Standards and Technology, Business Centers  
11                  and Rural Business Centers of the Minority  
12                  Business Development Agency, and other rel-  
13                  evant Federal economic development technical  
14                  assistance and service providers to provide ex-  
15                  pertise and technical assistance to develop, im-  
16                  plement, and support comprehensive regional  
17                  economic development strategies that assist in  
18                  job creation, high-skilled regional talent pools,  
19                  and business expansion in a region’s innovation  
20                  cluster;

21                  “(C) provide technical assistance, business  
22                  development services, and technology transfer  
23                  services to businesses in the service area of the  
24                  university center;

1           “(D) establish partnerships with one or  
2           more commercialization intermediaries that are  
3           public or nonprofit technology transfer organi-  
4           zations eligible to receive a grant under section  
5           602(d)(1)(B) of the American Innovation and  
6           Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s-  
7           9(d)(1)(B)); and

8           “(E) provide to communities and regions  
9           assistance relating to data collection and anal-  
10          ysis and other research relating to economic  
11          conditions and vulnerabilities that can inform  
12          economic development and adjustment strate-  
13          gies.

14          “(5) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—The Secretary may  
15          provide to each university center under this sub-  
16          section for each fiscal year an amount that is not  
17          less than \$500,000 and not more than \$1,000,000.”.

18          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(12) of  
19          the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965  
20          (42 U.S.C. 3122(12)) is amended by striking “section  
21          207(a)(2)(D)” and inserting “section 207”.

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