

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3250

To increase access to higher education by providing public transit grants.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Mr. CASEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To increase access to higher education by providing public transit grants.

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 “Providing Assistance
5 for Transit Help to College Act” or the “PATH to College
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION**
8 **THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSIT GRANTS.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
11 ble institution” means—

1 (A) a community college;

2 (B) a historically Black college or univer-
3 sity;

4 (C) a Tribal College or University (as de-
5 fined in section 316 of the Higher Education
6 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e)); or

7 (D) a minority-serving institution.

8 (2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
9 recipient” means a public transit provider in part-
10 nership with one or more eligible institutions.

11 (3) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
12 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college and
13 university” has the meaning given the term “part B
14 institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education
15 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

16 (4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
17 term “minority-serving institution” means an eligi-
18 ble institution under section 371 of the Higher Edu-
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q).

20 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Transportation.

22 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
23 under this section to eligible recipients to enable those eli-
24 gible recipients to carry out projects described in sub-

1 section (c) to better connect students with transportation
2 to eligible institutions.

3 (c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipient re-
4 ceiving a grant under this section shall use grant funds
5 to carry out one or more of the following activities to bet-
6 ter connect students with transportation to one or more
7 of the eligible institutions that are part of the eligible re-
8 cipient partnership:

9 (1) Adding bus, rail, or paratransit stops at or
10 within walking distances of campuses.

11 (2) Adding bus, rail, or paratransit routes to
12 and from campuses from surrounding areas and
13 other cities.

14 (3) Increasing the frequency of service or ad-
15 justing the time of bus, rail, or paratransit routes to
16 allow students to get to and from their classes.

17 (4) Subsidizing bus, rail, or paratransit costs
18 for students.

19 (d) APPLICATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible recipient that de-
21 sires a grant under this section shall submit an ap-
22 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
23 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
24 retary may require, including information on the ex-
25 tent to which the proposed projects using grant

1 funds will improve the availability of transit access
2 for students.

3 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
4 section, the Secretary shall give priority to an eligi-
5 ble recipient whose partnership includes an eligible
6 institution with respect to which more than 25 per-
7 cent of students enrolled in that eligible institution
8 receive a Federal Pell Grant.

9 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—

10 (1) CAPITAL PROJECT.—The Federal share of
11 the net project cost of a capital project carried out
12 using a grant under this section shall be not more
13 than 80 percent.

14 (2) OPERATING COSTS.—The Federal share of
15 net operating costs for a project carried out using a
16 grant under this section shall be not more than 50
17 percent.

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