

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 863

To reauthorize and improve the Appalachian regional development program,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2015

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND)
introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the
Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To reauthorize and improve the Appalachian regional
development program, 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 “Appalachian Regional
5 Development Amendments Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPALACHIAN REGIONAL**
7 **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

8 Section 14703 of title 40, United States Code, is
9 amended—

1 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts made
4 available by section 14501 and any other amounts made
5 available for the Appalachian development highway system
6 program under any other provision of law, there are au-
7 thorized to be appropriated to the Appalachian Regional
8 Commission to carry out this subtitle \$100,000,000 for
9 fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
11 subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(c) HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INI-
15 TIATIVE.—Of the amounts made available under sub-
16 section (a), \$10,000,000 shall be used to carry out section
17 14509.”.

18 **SEC. 3. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIA-**
19 **TIVE.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 145 of
21 subtitle IV of title 40, United States Code, is amended
22 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“§ 14509. High-speed broadband deployment initia-**
2 **tive**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Appalachian Regional Com-
4 mission may provide technical assistance, make grants,
5 enter into contracts, or otherwise provide amounts to per-
6 sons or entities in the Appalachian region for projects and
7 activities—

8 “(1) to increase affordable access to broadband
9 networks throughout the Appalachian region;

10 “(2) to conduct research, analysis, and training
11 to increase broadband adoption efforts in the Appa-
12 lachian region;

13 “(3) to provide technology assets, including
14 computers, smartboards, and video projectors to
15 educational systems throughout the Appalachian re-
16 gion;

17 “(4) to increase distance learning opportunities
18 throughout the Appalachian region;

19 “(5) to increase the use of telehealth tech-
20 nologies in the Appalachian region; and

21 “(6) to promote e-commerce applications in the
22 Appalachian region.

23 “(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the
24 cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section,
25 not more than—

1 “(1) 50 percent may be provided from amounts
2 appropriated to carry out this section;

3 “(2) in the case of a project to be carried out
4 in a county for which a distressed county designa-
5 tion is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent
6 may be provided from amounts appropriated to
7 carry out this section; or

8 “(3) in the case of a project to be carried out
9 in a county for which an at-risk designation is in ef-
10 fect under section 14526, 70 percent may be pro-
11 vided from amounts appropriated to carry out this
12 section.

13 “(c) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—Subject to sub-
14 section (b), grants provided under this section may be pro-
15 vided from amounts made available to carry out this sec-
16 tion in combination with amounts made available under
17 other Federal programs or from any other source.

18 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provi-
19 sion of law limiting the Federal share under any other
20 Federal program, amounts made available to carry out
21 this section may be used to increase that Federal share,
22 as the Appalachian Regional Commission determines is
23 appropriate.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
25 chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended

1 by inserting after the item relating to section 14508 the
2 following:

“14509. High-speed broadband deployment initiative.”.

3 **SEC. 4. TERMINATION.**

4 Section 14704 of title 40, United States Code, is
5 amended by striking “2012” and inserting “2020”.

6 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

7 This Act and the amendments made by this Act take
8 effect on October 1, 2015.

○