

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4468

To increase the Federal share of operating costs for certain projects that receive grants under the Formula Grants to Rural Areas Program of the Federal Transit Administration.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2020

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To increase the Federal share of operating costs for certain projects that receive grants under the Formula Grants to Rural Areas Program of the Federal Transit Administration.

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 “Investments in Rural  
5 Transit Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE OF OPERATING COSTS**  
 2 **FOR CERTAIN AREAS.**

3 Section 5311(g)(2)(B) of title 49, United States  
 4 Code, is amended—

5 (1) in the subparagraph heading, by striking  
 6 “EXCEPTION” and inserting “EXCEPTIONS”;

7 (2) by striking “A State” and inserting the fol-  
 8 lowing:

9 “(i) STATES WITH NONTAXABLE IN-  
 10 DIAN LANDS OR PUBLIC DOMAIN LANDS.—  
 11 Subject to clause (ii), a State”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(ii) AREAS WITH PARTICULAR  
 14 NEEDS.—

15 “(I) DEFINITION.—In this  
 16 clause, the term ‘area of persistent  
 17 poverty’ means—

18 “(aa) any county in which  
 19 not less than 20 percent of the  
 20 population has lived in poverty  
 21 during the most recent 30-year  
 22 period, as measured by—

23 “(AA) the second and  
 24 third most recent decennial  
 25 censuses; and

1                   “(BB) the Small Area  
2                   Income and Poverty Esti-  
3                   mates of the Bureau of the  
4                   Census for the most recent  
5                   year for which the Estimates  
6                   are available; or

7                   “(bb) any census tract with  
8                   a poverty rate of not less than 20  
9                   percent, as measured by most re-  
10                  cent 5-year data series available  
11                  from the American Community  
12                  Survey of the Bureau of the Cen-  
13                  sus.

14                  “(II)     INCREASED     FEDERAL  
15                  SHARE.—A grant made under this  
16                  section for operating assistance to an  
17                  operator of public transportation that  
18                  serves an area that meets one or more  
19                  of the criteria under subclause (III)  
20                  shall be for 80 percent of the net op-  
21                  erating costs of the project, as deter-  
22                  mined by the Secretary.

23                  “(III)    CRITERIA.—The criteria  
24                  referred to in subclause (II) are that  
25                  an area—

1           “(aa) is an area of per-  
2           sistent poverty;

3           “(bb) is a county in which  
4           not less than 25 percent of resi-  
5           dents are age 65 or older, accord-  
6           ing to the most recent 5-year es-  
7           timate of the American Commu-  
8           nity Survey of the Bureau of the  
9           Census;

10           “(cc) is a county that, or is  
11           a county that includes a site  
12           that—

13                   “(AA) has been des-  
14                   ignated by the Secretary of  
15                   Health and Human Services  
16                   as a health professional  
17                   shortage area under section  
18                   332(a) of the Public Health  
19                   Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
20                   254e(a)) on the basis of a  
21                   primary care or mental  
22                   health care shortage; and

23                   “(BB) received a health  
24                   professional shortage area  
25                   score for the most recent

1 program year, with respect  
2 to primary care or mental  
3 health care, that was not  
4 less than the lowest min-  
5 imum score, as designated  
6 by the Secretary of Health  
7 and Human Services for  
8 that program year, nec-  
9 essary for the site to be eli-  
10 gible for the assignment of  
11 National Health Service  
12 Corps members providing  
13 primary care or mental  
14 health care, respectively, for  
15 fulfillment of obligated serv-  
16 ice under the National  
17 Health Service Corps Schol-  
18 arship Program; or

19 “(dd) is a county with a  
20 population density of not more  
21 than 20 persons per square mile  
22 of land area, based on the most  
23 recent decennial census.”.

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