

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5241

To require the establishment and use of short form applications for rural communities applying for economic development grant programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

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

A BILL

To require the establishment and use of short form applications for rural communities applying for economic development grant programs, 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 “EDA Short Form Ap-
5 plication Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SHORT FORM APPLICATIONS FOR RURAL COMMU-**
7 **NITIES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRO-**
8 **GRAMS.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
2 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
3 Commerce for Economic Development.

4 (2) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term “rural
5 community” means an incorporated municipality,
6 Tribal area, or territory—

7 (A) with a population of not more than
8 10,000 individuals, as determined by the Bu-
9 reau of the Census in the most recent decennial
10 census; or

11 (B) that, as determined by the Assistant
12 Secretary, is not located in a metropolitan sta-
13 tistical area, as designated by the Director of
14 the Office of Management and Budget.

15 (b) SHORT FORM APPLICATIONS.—Notwithstanding
16 any other provision of law, the Assistant Secretary shall
17 establish a short form application for rural communities
18 that may be used by applicants in rural communities for
19 any grant program administered by the Economic Devel-
20 opment Administration.

21 (c) RURAL STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In establishing a
22 short form application under subsection (b), the Assistant
23 Secretary shall solicit input from a representative group
24 of stakeholders in rural communities on the challenges
25 faced by rural communities in identifying opportunities,

1 and applying, for grants from the Economic Development
2 Administration, including—

3 (1) the length of the applications;

4 (2) the information and documentation required
5 or requested to be submitted as part of the applica-
6 tions;

7 (3) the degree of applicability to rural commu-
8 nities of questions in the applications and informa-
9 tion and documentation described in paragraph (2);
10 and

11 (4) any other considerations the Assistant Sec-
12 retary determines to be necessary for the establish-
13 ment of the short form application.

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