

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 625

To amend title 23, United States Code, to incorporate regional transportation planning organizations into statewide transportation planning, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2011

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ALEXANDER) 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 title 23, United States Code, to incorporate regional transportation planning organizations into statewide transportation planning, 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. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING OR-**  
4 **GANIZATIONS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 134(b) of title 23, United  
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as  
8 paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively; and

1           (2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3           “(5) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
4           ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘regional transportation  
5           planning organization’ means the policy board of an  
6           organization established or designated under section  
7           135(k).”.

8           (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 135(e) of  
9           such title is amended—

10           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by  
11           striking “consider”;

12           (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the  
13           following:

14           “(1) with respect to nonmetropolitan areas, co-  
15           operate with affected nonmetropolitan local officials  
16           with responsibility for transportation through re-  
17           gional transportation planning organizations;”;

18           (3) in paragraph (2) by striking “the concerns”  
19           and inserting “consider the concerns”; and

20           (4) in paragraph (3)—

21           (A) by striking “coordination of” and in-  
22           serting “coordinate”; and

23           (B) by striking “the transportation im-  
24           provement program” and inserting “transpor-  
25           tation improvement programs”.

1 (c) LONG-RANGE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION  
2 PLAN.—Section 135(f)(2) of such title is amended—

3 (1) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting  
4 the following:

5 “(B) NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS.—With  
6 respect to nonmetropolitan areas, the statewide  
7 transportation plan shall be developed in co-  
8 operation with affected nonmetropolitan local  
9 officials with responsibility for transportation  
10 through regional transportation planning orga-  
11 nizations.”; and

12 (2) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking “and  
13 local agencies responsible for” and inserting “re-  
14 gional, and local agencies responsible for economic  
15 development, emergency management, transportation  
16 planning,”.

17 (d) STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT  
18 PROGRAM.—Section 135(g) of such title is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph  
20 (B) and inserting the following:

21 “(B) NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS.—With  
22 respect to each nonmetropolitan area in the  
23 State, the program shall be developed in co-  
24 operation with affected nonmetropolitan local  
25 officials with responsibility for transportation

1 through regional transportation planning orga-  
 2 nizations.”; and

3 (2) in the first sentence of paragraph (5), by  
 4 inserting “through regional transportation planning  
 5 organizations” before the period at the end.

6 (e) FUNDING.—Section 135(h) of such title is amend-  
 7 ed by striking “section 104(f)” and inserting “sections  
 8 104(f) and 505”.

9 (f) DESIGNATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION  
 10 PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 135 of such title is  
 11 amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(k) DESIGNATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION  
 13 PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the transpor-  
 15 tation planning process required under this section,  
 16 States shall establish, designate, and use amounts  
 17 made available to the State to carry out this section  
 18 to fund regional transportation planning organiza-  
 19 tions to enhance the planning, coordination, and im-  
 20 plementation of statewide transportation plans and  
 21 programs, with an emphasis on addressing the needs  
 22 of nonmetropolitan areas of the State.

23 “(2) STRUCTURE.—Each regional transpor-  
 24 tation planning organization shall be established as  
 25 a multi-jurisdictional organization of nonmetropoli-

1 tan local officials or their designees who volunteer  
2 for such organization and representatives of local  
3 transportation systems who volunteer for such orga-  
4 nization.

5 “(3) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—  
6 Each regional transportation planning organization  
7 shall be formed by a memorandum of understanding  
8 between the State and nonmetropolitan local officials  
9 or as otherwise provided under State law.

10 “(4) FUNCTION.—Each regional transportation  
11 planning organization shall work cooperatively to  
12 plan, coordinate, and implement transportation sys-  
13 tems in nonmetropolitan areas.

14 “(5) REQUIREMENTS.—Each regional transpor-  
15 tation planning organization shall establish, at a  
16 minimum—

17 “(A) a policy committee, the majority of  
18 which shall be comprised of nonmetropolitan  
19 local officials, or their designees, and which  
20 shall include, as appropriate, additional rep-  
21 resentatives from the State, private business,  
22 transportation service providers, economic de-  
23 velopment practitioners, and the public in the  
24 region; and

1           “(B) a fiscal and administrative agent,  
2           such as an existing regional planning and devel-  
3           opment organization, to provide professional  
4           planning, management, and administrative sup-  
5           port.

6           “(6) DUTIES.—The regional transportation  
7           planning organization shall—

8                   “(A) ensure that nonmetropolitan local of-  
9                   ficials are meaningfully involved in the state-  
10                  wide transportation planning process;

11                   “(B) develop and maintain, in cooperation  
12                   with the State, regional long-range multimodal  
13                   transportation plans;

14                   “(C) develop a regional transportation im-  
15                   provement program for consideration by the  
16                   State;

17                   “(D) foster the coordination of local plan-  
18                   ning, land use, and economic development plans  
19                   with State, regional, and local transportation  
20                   plans and programs;

21                   “(E) provide technical assistance to local  
22                   officials;

23                   “(F) participate in national, multi-State,  
24                   and State policy and planning development

1 processes to ensure the regional and local input  
2 of nonmetropolitan areas;

3 “(G) provide a forum for public participa-  
4 tion in the statewide and regional transpor-  
5 tation planning processes;

6 “(H) consider and share plans and pro-  
7 grams with neighboring regional transportation  
8 planning organizations, metropolitan planning  
9 organizations, and, as appropriate, tribal orga-  
10 nizations; and

11 “(I) conduct other duties, as necessary, to  
12 support and enhance the statewide planning  
13 process described in subsection (d).”

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