



Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 (S. 3891)

Section by Section

TITLE I – Public Works and Economic Development

Sec.101. Findings and declarations

- This section amends Section 2(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA) (42 U.S.C. § 3121(a)) to update findings and declarations.

Sec. 102. Definitions

- This section amends Section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3122) to provide standard definitions for terms “blue economy,” “capacity building,” “outdoor recreation,” “project predevelopment,” and “travel and tourism.” It also updates the definition of “Regional Commissions.”

Sec.103. Increased coordination

- This section amends Section 103 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3133) to enhance the ability of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to coordinate with the regional commissions. It also establishes reporting requirements and annual meeting requirements.

Sec.104. Grants for public works and economic development

- This section amends Section 201 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3141) to clarify eligibilities under that Section. This section also directs the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to consider certain matters when awarding grants of under Section 201.

Sec.105. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses

- This section amends Section 203 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3143) so that grants awarded under that section may be used for administrative expenses, including capacity building and project predevelopment activities.



Sec.106. Cost sharing

- This section amends Section 204 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3144) to revise cost sharing requirements. It also allows funding contributed by a regional commission to be used as the non-federal cost share of a project.

Sec.107. Regulations on relative needs and allocations

- This section amends Section 206 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3146) to include the per capita income levels, the labor force participation rate, and the extent of underemployment in eligible areas.

Sec.108. Research and technical assistance; university centers

- This section amends Section 207 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3147) to modernize the University Centers program.

Sec.109. Investment priorities

- This section amends Title II of PWEDA to establish the investment priorities that EDA must use when awarding grants.

Sec.110. Grants for economic adjustment

- This section amends Section 209 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3149) to clarify the eligibilities under that Section, including codifying existing programs for certain communities.

Sec.111. Renewable energy program

- This section amends Section 218 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3154d) to replace the Brightfields Demonstration Program with a program to site renewable energy technology on existing brownfield sites.

Sec.112. Workforce training grants

- This section authorizes the Secretary to make grants to support the development and expansion of certain workforce training programs.



Sec.113. Congressional notification requirements

- This section requires the Secretary to provide Congressional notification of grants in excess of \$100,000 no less than three days before an eligible recipient is notified of their selection for the award.

Sec.114. Specific flexibilities related to deployment of high-speed broadband

- This section modernizes EDA's authorities to award grants to public-private partnerships or consortia for high-speed broadband projects.

Sec. 115. Critical supply chain site development grant program

- This section authorizes the Secretary to establish a grant program to support site development or expansion projects for manufacturing industries.

Sec.116. Updated distress criteria and grant rates

- This section amends Section 301 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3161) to direct the Secretary to consider additional factors when determining economic distress.

Sec.117. Comprehensive economic development strategies

- This section amends Section 302 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3161) to update the requirements for certain awards made under Section 207 and Section 209(c)(2) of PWEDA.

Sec.118. Office of Tribal Economic Development

- This section establishes the Office of Tribal Economic Development.

Sec.119. Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience

- This section establishes the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.

Sec.120. Establishment of Technical Assistance Liaisons

- This section allows EDA to designate a regional staff member to act as a "Technical Assistance Liaison" for a regional office.



Sec.121. Annual report to Congress

- This section amends Section 603(b) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3213(b)) to update the annual reporting requirements.

Sec.122. Modernization of environmental reviews

- This section directs the Secretary to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Secretary to facilitate efficient, timely, and predictable environmental reviews of projects. It also directs the Secretary to promulgate a rulemaking within two years of completing the report to implement, to the maximum extent practicable, measures considered in the report to streamline environmental reviews.

Sec.123. Report on economic development programs

- This section requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit a report to Congress that evaluates economic development programs administered by the EDA and the regional commissions.

Sec.124. GAO report on Economic Development Administration regulations and policies

- This section requires the GAO to submit a report to Congress that evaluates economic development regulations and policies administered by the EDA that may have hindered the ability of communities to apply for and administer EDA grants.

Sec.125. GAO study on rural communities

- This section directs the GAO to submit a report to Congress on the impacts of EDA funding in distressed communities located in least five geographically diverse rural areas.

Sec.126. General authorization of appropriations

- This section authorizes funding for EDA's programs for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, subject to the availability of appropriations.



Sec.127. Technical correction

- This section amends the table of contents of PWEDA to reflect the revisions made by the bill.

TITLE II – Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development

Sec.201. Regional commissions authorizations

- This section amends Section 15751 of Title 40, U.S.C., to reauthorize certain regional commissions for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec.202. Regional commission modifications

- This section amends sections of Subtitle V of Title 40, U.S.C., to update administrative requirements for certain regional commissions.

Sec.203. Transfer of funds among federal agencies

- This section allows certain regional commissions to transfer funds to and accept transfers of funds from other Federal agencies where funds are appropriated for similar purposes.

Sec.204. Economic and infrastructure development grants

- This section amends Section 15501 of Title 40, U.S.C., to revise the eligibilities for economic and infrastructure development grants for certain regional commissions.

Sec.205. Financial assistance

- This section allows certain regional commissions funding to count as non-federal match for a project under another federal grants program under certain circumstances.

Sec.206. Northern Border Regional Commission area

- This section adds Lincoln, Merrimack, and Wyoming Counties to the area covered by the Northern Border Regional Commission.



Sec.207. Southwest Border Regional Commission area

- This section adds Bernalillo, Cibola, Curry, De Baca, Guadalupe, Roosevelt, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia Counties to the area covered by the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

Sec.208. Great Lakes Authority area

- This section attributes counties to the area covered by the Great Lakes Authority.

Sec.209. Additional regional commission programs

- This section codifies the existing State Capacity Building Grant Program and allows for limited demonstration health projects to be carried out by certain regional commissions.

Sec.210. Tribal and colonia participation in southwest border region

- This section authorizes the Southwest Border Regional Commission to reduce the non-federal cost share for a colonia or Indian tribe.

Sec.211. Establishment of Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission

- This section establishes the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.

Sec.212. Establishment of Southern New England Regional Commission

- This section establishes the Southern New England Regional Commission.

Sec.213. Denali Commission reauthorization

- This section reauthorizes the Denali Commission from fiscal years 2025 through 2029 and makes changes to improve the function of the Commission.

Sec.214. Denali Housing Fund

- This section authorizes the establishment of a Denali Housing Fund.



Sec.215. Delta Regional Authority reauthorization

- This section reauthorizes the Delta Regional Authority from fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec.216. Northern Great Plains Regional Authority reauthorization

- This section reauthorizes the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority from fiscal years 2025 through 2029.