

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish university centers to encourage certain economic development, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PADILLA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish university centers to encourage certain economic development, 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 “University Centers for
5 Growth, Development, and Prosperity Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY UNIVERSITY**
2 **CENTERS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 207 of the Public
4 Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
5 U.S.C. 3147) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(D), by inserting “in ac-
7 cordance with subsection (c)” after “university cen-
8 ters”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(c) UNIVERSITY CENTERS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
12 awards to institutions of higher education for such
13 institutions to serve as university centers.

14 “(2) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.—The Secretary
15 shall ensure that at least one university center is es-
16 tablished in each State to provide services in such
17 State.

18 “(3) PRIORITIZATION OF HISTORICALLY BLACK
19 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, TRIBAL COLLEGES
20 AND UNIVERSITIES, HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITU-
21 TIONS, AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—In
22 establishing university centers under this subsection,
23 the Secretary shall prioritize institutions of higher
24 education that are eligible to receive funds under
25 section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
26 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

1 “(4) DUTIES.—The university centers estab-
2 lished under this subsection, to the extent prac-
3 ticable, shall—

4 “(A) collaborate with other university cen-
5 ters;

6 “(B) collaborate with economic develop-
7 ment districts, trade adjustment assistance cen-
8 ters, Hollings Manufacturing Extension Part-
9 nership Centers of the National Institute of
10 Standards and Technology, Business Centers
11 and Rural Business Centers of the Minority
12 Business Development Agency, and other rel-
13 evant Federal economic development technical
14 assistance and service providers to provide ex-
15 pertise and technical assistance to develop, im-
16 plement, and support comprehensive regional
17 economic development strategies that assist in
18 job creation, high-skilled regional talent pools,
19 and business expansion in a region’s innovation
20 cluster;

21 “(C) provide technical assistance, business
22 development services, and technology transfer
23 services to businesses in the service area of the
24 university center;

1 “(D) establish partnerships with one or
2 more commercialization intermediaries that are
3 public or nonprofit technology transfer organi-
4 zations eligible to receive a grant under section
5 602(d)(1)(B) of the American Innovation and
6 Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s-
7 9(d)(1)(B)); and

8 “(E) provide to communities and regions
9 assistance relating to data collection and anal-
10 ysis and other research relating to economic
11 conditions and vulnerabilities that can inform
12 economic development and adjustment strate-
13 gies.

14 “(5) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—The Secretary may
15 provide to each university center under this sub-
16 section for each fiscal year an amount that is not
17 less than \$500,000 and not more than \$1,000,000.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(12) of
19 the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965
20 (42 U.S.C. 3122(12)) is amended by striking “section
21 207(a)(2)(D)” and inserting “section 207”.