

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To improve the job access and reverse commute program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FEINGOLD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To improve the job access and reverse commute program, 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 “Job Access and Re-  
5 verse Commute Program Improvements Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM.**

7 (a) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—Section 5316(b) of  
8 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
9 end the following:

10 “(3) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State may accept a  
2           single combined application for a project that  
3           will use funds provided under not less than 2  
4           of the programs described in subparagraph (C).

5           “(B) INCENTIVES.—For any State that de-  
6           termines to accept combined applications under  
7           subparagraph (A), the Secretary may—

8                   “(i) reduce the amount of the cost  
9                   share required under a program described  
10                  in subparagraph (C);

11                  “(ii) increase the amount of funds the  
12                  State may use for administrative expenses  
13                  under a program described in subpara-  
14                  graph (C); or

15                  “(iii) make a grant to the State for  
16                  expenses relating to accepting combined  
17                  applications.

18           “(C) PROGRAMS.—The programs described  
19           in this subparagraph are the program under  
20           this section, the elderly and disabled specialized  
21           transit program under section 5310, the new  
22           freedom program under section 5317, and any  
23           other program determined appropriate by the  
24           Secretary.”.

1 (b) JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE FORMULA  
2 GRANTS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5316 of title 49,  
4 United States Code, is amended—

5 (A) in subsection (a)(1)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
7 “and” at the end;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
9 the period at the end and inserting “;  
10 and”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
12 lowing:

13 “(E) subsidizing the costs associated with  
14 the transportation of low income high school  
15 students and young adults to career or tech-  
16 nical education, job training, or apprenticeship  
17 programs.”;

18 (B) in subsection (h)(2)—

19 (i) by striking “operating assistance  
20 may not” and inserting “operating assist-  
21 ance—

22 “(A) may not”;

23 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
24 and inserting “; or”; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(B) may not exceed 80 percent of the net  
4 operating costs of the project, if the State noti-  
5 fies the Secretary that it is necessary to achieve  
6 program goals.”;

7 (C) in subsection (e), by adding at the end  
8 the following:

9 “(4) TRANSFERS TO STATES.—A local govern-  
10 mental authority may transfer to the State in which  
11 the local governmental authority is located any funds  
12 apportioned to the local governmental authority  
13 under this section. A State may use funds trans-  
14 ferred under this paragraph for any eligible job ac-  
15 cess or reverse commute project under this section.”;  
16 and

17 (D) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(j) REPORTING AND CERTIFICATION STREAM-  
19 LINING.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may waive  
21 or streamline reporting and certification require-  
22 ments relating to the program under this section at  
23 the request of a State if the Secretary determines  
24 that the primary goals of the program are still being  
25 met.

1           “(2) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a  
2 study of the feasibility of the elimination, revision,  
3 or reduced frequency of collection for any reporting  
4 or certification requirements relating to the program  
5 under this section, particularly examining the bur-  
6 den on and needs of nonprofit organizations that re-  
7 ceive funding and are unaccustomed to Federal  
8 Transit Administration regulations.

9           “(3) FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-  
10 courage flexibility and experimentation by allowing  
11 States to use other assessment and eligibility meas-  
12 ures such as outcome based assessment of the trans-  
13 portation access improvements to targeted popu-  
14 lations instead of documenting individuals either on  
15 a State-by-State trial basis or through the pilot pro-  
16 gram under subsection (k).

17           “(4) WORKFORCE BOARDS.—The Secretary  
18 shall—

19                   “(A) encourage coordination and review of  
20 applications by local workforce boards; and

21                   “(B) consider using workforce board re-  
22 views as an alternative to streamline reporting  
23 requirements.

24           “(k) PILOT PROGRAM.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry  
2 out a pilot program to make grants to recipients  
3 to—

4           “(A) improve education and employment  
5 related transportation for eligible teens and  
6 young adults, such as linking high schools to  
7 technical colleges, job centers, and apprentice-  
8 ships;

9           “(B) evaluate streamlined reporting and  
10 certification requirements developed under sub-  
11 section (j) in order to determine whether the re-  
12 quirements still ensure sufficient accountability  
13 and whether the projects are still primarily ad-  
14 dressing the goals of this section;

15           “(C) support more comprehensive projects  
16 that are integrated with other Federal, State,  
17 and local transportation and human service pro-  
18 grams while ensuring the paperwork burden is  
19 minimized, including—

20           “(i) bundling funds from and allowing  
21 combined applications with streamlined re-  
22 porting requirements for other programs of  
23 the Department of Transportation (such as  
24 the elderly and disabled specialized transit  
25 program under section 5310 and the new

1 freedom program under section 5317) or  
2 other Federal departments and agencies  
3 (such as the Department of Labor, the De-  
4 partment of Health and Human Services,  
5 and the Department of Education) to ad-  
6 dress more comprehensive human service  
7 transportation needs;

8 “(ii) developing programs that cross  
9 local government boundaries and involve  
10 multiple localities, particularly programs  
11 that serve more than 1 of the categories of  
12 areas described in subparagraph (A), (B),  
13 or (C) of subsection (c)(1); and

14 “(iii) developing comprehensive  
15 projects that integrate workforce develop-  
16 ment with transportation needs during the  
17 different phases of training and job place-  
18 ment.

19 “(2) AUTHORIZATION.—There shall be available  
20 from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway  
21 Trust Fund \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
22 2010 through 2014 to carry out this subsection.

23 “(1) CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF JARC  
24 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CLEARINGHOUSE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-  
2           tinue technical assistance and peer-to-peer network  
3           activities being carried out on the date of enactment  
4           of this subsection and expand the assistance and ac-  
5           tivities as appropriate, so that the Department sup-  
6           ports efforts that—

7                   “(A) act as an information clearinghouse  
8                   and information network;

9                   “(B) provide technical assistance to poten-  
10                  tial applicants for a grant under this section;

11                  “(C) provide technical assistance to grant  
12                  recipients in meeting Federal reporting and cer-  
13                  tification requirements, especially entities such  
14                  as first-time grant recipients and small non-  
15                  profit organizations;

16                  “(D) conduct outreach and education of  
17                  employers and employees regarding transpor-  
18                  tation assistance, including tax benefits for pro-  
19                  viding fringe benefits and earned income tax  
20                  credit benefits for employees; and

21                  “(E) as appropriate, coordinate the com-  
22                  bined activities of and support memorandums  
23                  of understanding between related Federal pro-  
24                  grams in the Department of Transportation or  
25                  another Federal department or agency, such as





1           “(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts  
2           made available by paragraph (1) shall remain avail-  
3           able until expended.”.

4           (c) APPLICATION.—Subparagraph (B) of section  
5 5316(h)(2) of title 49, United States Code, as added by  
6 subsection (b) of this section, shall apply to unexpended  
7 amounts made available before, on, or after the date of  
8 enactment of this Act.

9           (d) OFFSET.—Any amounts authorized to carry out  
10 a project under section 1602 of the Transportation Equity  
11 Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105–178; 112 Stat.  
12 256) for which no funds had been obligated as of June  
13 9, 2008, are rescinded.