



NARC

Building Regional Communities

Updated Wednesday, January 13, 2010

A Brief Summary

Jobs For Main Street Act of 2010 (HR 2847)

Information represents areas and programs most relevant to NARC members and their local governments

General Information:

- Passed House on December 16, 2009 by a slim margin and without Republican votes
- Several freshman House Democrats voted against the measure
- Redirects \$75B from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) with \$79B additional from emergency funding
- Follows the precedent and similar requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5)

Bill Specifics:

- \$27.5B highway infrastructure
- \$8.4B for public transportation, including \$6.15 billion for urban and rural formula grants; \$500 million for capital investment grants for new or expanded fixed guideway projects; and \$1.75 billion in formula funds to address repair needs of existing subway, light rail and commuter rail systems
- \$800M for capital grants to Amtrak for the acquisition and rehabilitation of rolling stock and passenger equipment to improve the speed and capacity of intercity passenger rail service
- \$500M for Airport Improvement Projects grants
- \$1B for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1B for the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Half of the funds will include additional subsidies, such as principal forgiveness and grants.
- \$100M for the Bureau of Reclamation to provide clean, reliable drinking water to rural areas and to ensure adequate water supply to areas impacted by drought
- \$715M for Corp of Engineer environmental restoration, flood protection, hydropower, and navigation infrastructure projects
- \$4.1B for School Renovation Grants to allow State, local, or tribal governments to receive a federal grant equal to the cost of tax credits that would otherwise be payable on bonds issued to finance school construction, rehabilitation or repair.
- \$1B for the National Housing Trust Fund to provide communities with funds to build, preserve, and rehabilitate rental homes that are affordable for extremely and very low-income households; and \$65 million for project-based vouchers to support units built by the Trust Fund.
- \$1B for the Public Housing Capital Fund for additional repairs and rehabilitation of public housing.
- \$23B for an Education Jobs Fund to help States support an estimated 250,000 education jobs over the next two years. 95% of the funds will be allocated by States to school districts and public institutions of higher education to retain or create jobs to provide educational services and to modernize, renovate, and repair public education facilities. The remaining 5% of funds is reserved for State education-related jobs and administration of the Education Jobs Fund.
- \$1.18B to support putting over 5,500 law enforcement officers on the beat throughout the United States.
- \$500M to retain, rehire, and hire firefighters across the United States.
- \$500M for a summer employment program for youth
- \$300M to support the College Work Study program, which supports low- and moderate-income undergraduate and graduate students who work while attending college
- \$270M to support putting people to work improving and protecting federal, state, and local public lands.
- \$750M for competitive grants to support job training in high growth and emerging industry sectors, particularly in the health care and green industries that are adding jobs despite difficult economic conditions. Grants for job training in green industries will focus on programs that train workers living in areas of high poverty.
- \$41B to extend, for six months, expanded unemployment benefits, including increased payouts and longer duration of benefits
- \$12.3B to extend from nine to 15 months the 65% COBRA health insurance subsidy for individuals who have lost their jobs. The job lost eligibility date is extended in the provision to June 30, 2010
- \$354M, fully offset, to allow the Small Business Administration (SBA) to continue two temporary loan guarantee authorities through the end of fiscal year 2010 to make loans more attractive to borrowers and lenders and to free up capital

- **Surface Transportation Authorization Extension:** Extends the authorization for the highway, transit, highway safety and motor carrier safety programs of the Department of Transportation until September 30, 2010. In addition, the bill includes language that provides 100% federal share for the transportation programs authorized in the title, repeals the provision that prohibits Highway Trust Fund balances from earning interest, and restores \$20 billion to the Highway Trust Fund.

Other Political Information/Considerations

The Senate has not yet introduced their bill, but they are intending to take something up early in 2010. This will be an uphill battle in the Senate as they will struggle with gaining enough votes, addressing increased federal deficit concerns and impacting the 2010 mid-term elections. It is also unclear as to how this will fit into an already busy legislative schedule that includes big ticket items like healthcare.

The Obama Administration is interested in this moving forward immediately in order to get more people back to work. This is a follow up to the Obama Administration's early December jobs forum at the White House.