

# The Regional Innovation Act of 2021

## Section by Section

Section 1. Short Title; Table of Contents.

### **Section 2. Regional Innovation Capacity.**

- (a) provides definitions used in this section.
- (b) requires the Secretary of Commerce to establish a regional technology and innovation hubs program consisting of strategy development and strategy implementation grants or cooperative agreements and describes the purposes of the program.
- (c) provides direction regarding eligibility for the program.
- (d) requires the Secretary to use a competitive process to designate not fewer than 10 eligible consortia as regional hubs, and provides direction regarding geographic distribution and inclusion of underserved communities.
- (e) provides direction for strategy development grants, including requirements for geographic distribution, use of funds, and cost-share.
- (f) provides direction for strategy implementation grants; describes allowable uses of funds; establishes two tiers of awards and a maximum allowable grant size of \$150 million for tier 1 and 15% of the total program for tier 2; establishes cost-share requirements based on tier and type of consortium.
- (g) requires the Secretary to establish specific application requirements.
- (h) provides guidance to the Secretary regarding selection criteria.
- (i) requires the Secretary to ensure coordination among Hubs and between the program and other relevant Federal programs, including MEP and Manufacturing USA.
- (j) requires the Secretary to develop performance, transparency and accountability criteria for recipients and reporting requirements for the program.
- (k) authorizes nearly \$7 billion for the program from fiscal years 2022 - 2026.
- (l) allows the Secretary to use funds for program administration.

### **Section 3. Department of Energy.**

This section authorizes a Regional Clean Energy Innovation Program at DOE to establish regional partnerships that promote the economic development of diverse geographic areas of the United States by supporting clean energy innovation. Awards are capped at \$10 million over 5 years and requires a cost-share of 50% in years 3, 4, and 5, of the grant, with an optional renewal for an additional 5 years. This section also authorizes grants in the amount of \$2 million for government entities, in partnership with other entities, to conduct planning activities to setup a regional clean energy innovation partnership.