

Commission to Relocate the Federal Bureaucracy Act

Sponsored by Senator Marsha Blackburn (TN)

Background: During his first term in office, President Trump moved several federal agencies to locations across the country. The president relocated the Bureau of Land Management's D.C. headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado. He also sent the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service and National Institute of Food and Agriculture to Kansas City, Missouri. In his second term, President-elect Trump seeks to move as many as 100,000 employees out of Washington, D.C. The Commission to Relocate the Federal Bureaucracy Act will establish a commission to study and report to Congress on a plan to relocate non-national security related agencies to states across the country based on a variety of factors. This bill will decentralize the power that is held by unelected bureaucrats inside the Beltway and put agencies in touch with those most impacted by their burdensome rules and regulations.

Summary: The Commission to Relocate the Federal Bureaucracy Act would:

1. Establish a commission, composed of various senior White House officials and cabinet secretaries, to study the relocation of non-national security related agencies out of the D.C. metro area and issue a report to Congress within one year with its findings.
2. Direct the commission to base their relocation decisions for each agency on the following factors:
 - a. Financial Efficiency: whether an area's cost of living is below the national average.
 - b. Existing Infrastructure: whether an area has adequate pre-existing infrastructure, including technology infrastructure, and available private land to be used for agency purposes.
 - c. Related Industries: areas where there exist both public and private sector institutions and partners that strengthen the agency's ability to carry out its duties.
 - d. Economic Distress: whether an area is designated as a Qualified Opportunity Zone or meets certain criteria for economic "distress," including areas that face actual or threatened severe unemployment, underemployment, or economic adjustment problems, areas with a low median household income, and areas with a low workforce participation rate.
 - e. Remote Work Experience: Whether the covered agency has operated, at any point within the last 5 years, with at least 50% of its workforce working remotely.
3. Ensure the commission consults with local stakeholders in evaluating potential relocation sites, including state and local government officials, business leaders, and representatives from regional economic development agencies.
4. Instruct the commission to maintain a goal of relocating at least 100,000 federal employees when compiling its report.