

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 2672, with An Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text and a new title)

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2672

To provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for a county to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for a county to be designated as a rural area, 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 “Helping Expand Lend-
5 ing Practices in Rural Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF RURAL AREA.**

2 (a) APPLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer
4 Financial Protection shall establish an application process
5 under which a person who lives or does business in a State
6 may, with respect to an area identified by the person in
7 such State that has not been designated by the Bureau
8 as a rural area for purposes of a Federal consumer finan-
9 cial law (as defined under section 1002 of the Consumer
10 Financial Protection Act of 2010), apply for such area to
11 be so designated.

12 (b) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—When evaluating an
13 application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau
14 shall take into consideration the following factors:

15 (1) Criteria used by the Director of the Bureau
16 of the Census for classifying geographical areas as
17 rural or urban.

18 (2) Criteria used by the Director of the Office
19 of Management and Budget to designate counties as
20 metropolitan or micropolitan or neither.

21 (3) Criteria used by the Secretary of Agri-
22 culture to determine property eligibility for rural de-
23 velopment programs.

24 (4) The Department of Agriculture rural-urban
25 commuting area codes.

1 (5) A written opinion provided by the State's
2 bank supervisor, as defined under section 3(r) of the
3 Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(r)).

4 (6) Population density.

5 (c) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
7 receiving an application submitted under subsection
8 (a), the Bureau shall—

9 (A) publish such application in the Federal
10 Register; and

11 (B) make such application available for
12 public comment for not fewer than 90 days.

13 (2) LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL APPLICA-
14 TIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed
15 to require the Bureau, during the public comment
16 period with respect to an application submitted
17 under subsection (a), to accept an additional appli-
18 cation with respect to the area that is the subject of
19 the initial application.

20 (d) DECISION ON DESIGNATION.—Not later than 90
21 days after the end of the public comment period under
22 subsection (c)(1) for an application, the Bureau shall—

23 (1) grant or deny such application, in whole or
24 in part; and

1 (2) publish such grant or denial in the Federal
2 Register, along with an explanation of what factors
3 the Bureau relied on in making such determination.

4 (e) SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.—A decision by the
5 Bureau under subsection (d) to deny an application for
6 an area to be designated as a rural area shall not preclude
7 the Bureau from accepting a subsequent application sub-
8 mitted under subsection (a) for such area to be so des-
9 ignated, so long as such subsequent application is made
10 after the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date
11 that the Bureau denies the application under subsection
12 (d).

13 (f) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have any
14 force or effect after the end of the 2-year period beginning
15 on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the
Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protec-
tion Act to provide for an application process for inter-
ested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a
rural area, and for other purposes.”.