

Millennium Compacts for Regional Economic Integration Act (S. 1605)

Section-by-Section Summary

Bill Overview. The Millennium Compacts for Regional Economic Integration Act (M-CORE Act) will allow the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to enter into a second concurrent assistance agreement (compact) with a country if: (a) one or both of the compacts are or will be for purposes of regional economic integration, increased regional trade, or cross-border collaborations; and (b) the country is making demonstrable progress implementing the first compact.

Sec. 1: Short Title. The Act may be cited as the “Millennium Compacts for Regional Economic Integration Act” or the “M-CORE Act.”

Sec. 2: Findings. Among other things, this section notes that: (a) MCC plays a unique role in economic development throughout the world; (b) MCC pursues its mission of reducing poverty through economic growth by making time-bound grant investments through data selectivity, country ownership all with a focus on results; (c) MCC’s extensive analysis indicates that a regional approach to poverty reduction, under the right circumstances, can present opportunities to take advantage of higher rates of return on investment and larger scale reductions in poverty; and (d) to make a coordinated regional investment across several countries work, MCC’s needs to select a block of countries at the same time to coordinate project development and compact signings, which is unrealistic, or be able to enter into a concurrent compact with one of those countries, for which it currently lacks authority.

Sec. 3: Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to expand MCC’s ability to develop compacts with countries, particularly in Africa, that promote regional economic integration and cross-border collaborations.

Sec. 4: Millennium Challenge Compact. This section states that an eligible country and the United States may enter into a second concurrent compact if: (1) one or both of the compacts are or will be for purposes of regional economic integration, increased regional trade, or cross-border collaborations; and (2) the MCC Board determines that the recipient country is making considerable and demonstrable progress in implementing the terms of any existing compact.