

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2997

To provide grants to certain rural local educational agencies.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To provide grants to certain rural local educational agencies.

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 “Low-Income and Rural  
5        School Program”.

6        **SEC. 2. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

7        (a) RESERVATIONS.—From amounts appropriated  
8        under section 7 for this Act for a fiscal year, the Secretary  
9        shall reserve ½ of 1 percent to make awards to elementary  
10       or secondary schools operated or supported by the Bureau  
11       of Indian Affairs to carry out the purpose of this Act.

12       (b) GRANTS TO STATES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated  
2 under section 7 for this Act that are not reserved  
3 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall award  
4 grants for a fiscal year to State educational agencies  
5 that have applications approved under section 4 to  
6 enable the State educational agencies to award sub-  
7 grants to eligible local educational agencies for local  
8 authorized activities described in subsection (c)(2).

9           (2) ALLOCATION.—From amounts appropriated  
10 for this Act, the Secretary shall allocate to each  
11 State educational agency for a fiscal year an amount  
12 that bears the same ratio to the amount of funds ap-  
13 propriated under section 7 for this Act that are not  
14 reserved under subsection (a) as the number of stu-  
15 dents in average daily attendance served by eligible  
16 local educational agencies in the State bears to the  
17 number of all such students served by eligible local  
18 educational agencies in all States for that fiscal  
19 year.

20           (3) DIRECT AWARDS TO SPECIALLY QUALIFIED  
21 AGENCIES.—

22           (A) NONPARTICIPATING STATE.—If a  
23 State educational agency elects not to partici-  
24 pate in the program under this Act or does not  
25 have an application approved under section 4 a

1 specially qualified agency in such State desiring  
2 a grant under this Act shall apply directly to  
3 the Secretary to receive such a grant.

4 (B) DIRECT AWARDS TO SPECIALLY  
5 QUALIFIED AGENCIES.—The Secretary may  
6 award, on a competitive basis, the amount the  
7 State educational agency is eligible to receive  
8 under paragraph (2) directly to specially quali-  
9 fied agencies in the State.

10 (c) LOCAL AWARDS.—

11 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—A local educational agency  
12 shall be eligible to receive funds under this Act if—

13 (A) 20 percent or more of the children  
14 aged 5 to 17, inclusive, served by the local edu-  
15 cational agency are from families with incomes  
16 below the poverty line; and

17 (B) all of the schools served by the agency  
18 are located in a community with a Rural-Urban  
19 Continuum Code of 6, 7, 8, or 9, as determined  
20 by the Secretary of Agriculture.

21 (2) USES OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded to  
22 local educational agencies or made available to  
23 schools under this Act shall be used for—

24 (1) educational technology, including software  
25 and hardware;

- 1 (2) professional development;
- 2 (3) technical assistance;
- 3 (4) teacher recruitment and retention;
- 4 (5) parental involvement activities; or
- 5 (6) academic enrichment programs.

6 **SEC. 3. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**

7 (a) AWARD BASIS.—A State educational agency shall  
8 award grants to eligible local educational agencies—

- 9 (1) on a competitive basis; or
- 10 (2) according to a formula based on the number  
11 of students in average daily attendance served by the  
12 eligible local educational agencies or schools (as ap-  
13 propriate) in the State, as determined by the State.

14 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State educational  
15 agency receiving a grant under this Act may not use more  
16 than 5 percent of the amount of the grant for State ad-  
17 ministrative costs.

18 **SEC. 4. APPLICATIONS.**

19 Each State educational agency and specially qualified  
20 agency desiring to receive a grant under this Act shall sub-  
21 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
22 manner, and accompanied by such information as the Sec-  
23 retary may require. Such application shall include specific  
24 measurable goals and objectives to be achieved which may  
25 include specific educational goals and objectives relating

1 to increased student academic achievement, decreased stu-  
2 dent drop-out rates, or such other factors that the State  
3 educational agency or specially qualified agency may  
4 choose to measure.

5 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

6 (a) STATE REPORTS.—Each State educational agen-  
7 cy that receives a grant under this Act shall provide an  
8 annual report to the Secretary. The report shall  
9 describe—

10 (1) the method the State educational agency  
11 used to award grants to eligible local educational  
12 agencies and to provide assistance to schools under  
13 this Act;

14 (2) how local educational agencies and schools  
15 used funds provided under this Act; and

16 (3) the degree to which progress has been made  
17 toward meeting the goals and objectives described in  
18 the application submitted under section 4.

19 (b) SPECIALLY QUALIFIED AGENCY REPORT.—Each  
20 specially qualified agency that receives a grant under this  
21 Act shall provide an annual report to the Secretary. Such  
22 report shall describe—

23 (1) how such agency uses funds provided under  
24 this Act; and

1           (2) the degree to which progress has been made  
2           toward meeting the goals and objectives described in  
3           the application submitted under section 2(b)(4)(A).

4           (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall pre-  
5           pare and submit to the Committee on Education and the  
6           Workforce for the House of Representatives and the Com-  
7           mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions for the  
8           Senate an annual report. The report shall describe—

9           (1) the methods the State educational agency  
10          used to award grants to eligible local educational  
11          agencies and to provide assistance to schools under  
12          this Act;

13          (2) how eligible local educational agencies and  
14          schools used funds provided under this Act; and

15          (3) progress made in meeting specific measur-  
16          able educational goals and objectives.

17 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

18          For the purposes of this Act—

19          (1) The term “poverty line” means the poverty  
20          line (as defined by the Office of Management and  
21          Budget, and revised annually in accordance with sec-  
22          tion 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant  
23          Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of  
24          the size involved.

1           (2) The term “specially qualified agency”  
2 means an eligible local educational agency, located in  
3 a State that does not participate in a program under  
4 this Act in a fiscal year, that may apply directly to  
5 the Secretary for a grant in such year in accordance  
6 with section 2(b)(4).

7           (3) The term “State” means each of the 50  
8 States, the District of Columbia, and the Common-  
9 wealth of Puerto Rico.

10 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
12 this Act \$125,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and such sums  
13 as may be necessary for each of 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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