

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1148

To provide grants to certain rural local educational agencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2001

Mr. HILLEARY (for himself, Mr. JOHN, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. NORWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

1 (b) GRANTS TO STATES.—

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

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

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

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

1 have an application approved under section 4 a
2 specially qualified agency in such State desiring
3 a grant under this Act shall apply directly to
4 the Secretary to receive such a grant.

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

11 (c) LOCAL AWARDS.—

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

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

18 (B) all of the schools served by the agency
19 are located in a community with a School Lo-
20 cale code of 6, 7, or 8, as determined by the
21 Secretary of Education.

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

1 (A) teacher recruitment and retention, in-
2 cluding the use of signing bonuses and other fi-
3 nancial incentives;

4 (B) teacher professional development, in-
5 cluding programs that train teachers to utilize
6 technology to improve teaching and to train
7 special needs teachers;

8 (C) educational technology, including soft-
9 ware and hardware as described in title III of
10 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
11 of 1965; or

12 (D) programs that promote academic en-
13 richment.

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

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

17 (1) on a competitive basis; or

18 (2) according to a formula based on the number
19 of students in average daily attendance served by the
20 eligible local educational agencies or schools (as ap-
21 propriate) in the State, as determined by the State.

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

1 **SEC. 4. APPLICATIONS.**

2 Each State educational agency and specially qualified
3 agency desiring to receive a grant under this Act shall sub-
4 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
5 manner, and accompanied by such information as the Sec-
6 retary may require. Such application shall include specific
7 measurable goals and objectives relating to increased stu-
8 dent academic achievement, decreased student drop-out
9 rates, or such other factors that the State educational
10 agency or specially qualified agency may choose to meas-
11 ure.

12 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

13 (a) STATE REPORTS.—Each State educational agen-
14 cy that receives a grant under this Act shall provide an
15 annual report to the Secretary. The report shall de-
16 scribe—

17 (1) the method the State educational agency
18 used to award grants to eligible local educational
19 agencies and to provide assistance to schools under
20 this Act;

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

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

1 (b) SPECIALLY QUALIFIED AGENCY REPORT.—Each
2 specially qualified agency that receives a grant under this
3 Act shall provide an annual report to the Secretary. Such
4 report shall describe—

5 (1) how such agency uses funds provided under
6 this Act; and

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

10 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall pre-
11 pare and submit to the Committee on Education and the
12 Workforce for the House of Representatives and the Com-
13 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions for the
14 Senate an annual report. The report shall describe—

15 (1) the methods the State educational agency
16 used to award grants to eligible local educational
17 agencies and to provide assistance to schools under
18 this Act;

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

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

23 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

24 For the purposes of this Act—

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 7. PERFORMANCE REVIEW.**

17 Three years after a State educational agency or spe-
18 cifically qualified agency receives funds under this Act, the
19 Secretary shall review the progress of such agency toward
20 achieving the goals and objectives included in its applica-
21 tion to determine if the agency has made progress toward
22 meeting such goals and objectives. To review the perform-
23 ance of each agency, the Secretary shall—

24 (1) review the use of funds of such agency
25 under section 2(e)(2); and

1 (2) deny the provision of additional funds in
2 subsequent fiscal years to an agency only if the Sec-
3 retary determines, after notice and an opportunity
4 for a hearing, that the agency's use of funds has
5 been inadequate to justify the continuation of such
6 funding.

7 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
9 this Act \$125,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such sums
10 as may be necessary for each of 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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