

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2698

To establish a grant program for school renovation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2002

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a grant program for school renovation, 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 “Building Our Chil-
5 dren’s Future Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to a 1995 General Accounting
9 Office report, the unmet need for school construction
10 and renovation in the United States is
11 \$112,000,000,000. The National Center for Edu-

1 cation Statistics further found that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Na-
2 tion's schools need funding to bring buildings up to
3 good overall condition.

4 (2) The Department of Education has found
5 that the average age of a public school building is
6 42 years, an age when schools tend to deteriorate.

7 (3) According to a 1999 report from the Na-
8 tional Education Association, at least an additional
9 2,400 new public schools will be needed by 2003 to
10 accommodate the "baby boom echo".

11 (4) In 2000, the General Accounting Office re-
12 ported that annual school construction expenditures
13 increased nationally by 39 percent from fiscal year
14 1990 through 1997, from \$17,800,000,000 to
15 \$24,700,000,000.

16 (5) Studies have found a link between school
17 building conditions and student learning. In 1996,
18 Dr. Glenn Earthman of the Virginia Polytechnic In-
19 stitute and State University compared test scores in
20 substandard and above standard schools, and found
21 a positive correlation between school conditions and
22 test scores.

23 (6) Rural schools face different and difficult
24 school modernization needs and often have limited
25 financial resources to meet their needs. In 1996, the

1 General Accounting Office reported that 30 percent
2 of small town and rural schools have at least 1 inad-
3 adequate building and 52 percent have at least 1 build-
4 ing feature, such as a roof, plumbing, heating or air
5 conditioning, needing repair or replacement.

6 (7) Schools in smaller areas have low tax bases
7 that make it difficult to pay for bond financing
8 costs. Also, such schools' bond issues are relatively
9 small and unfamiliar to investors, making them less
10 attractive.

11 (8) In 2000, the General Accounting Office re-
12 ported that areas with the highest enrollment growth
13 rates also tend to have the highest construction ex-
14 penditures per pupil.

15 (9) In addition to basic infrastructure, pro-
16 viding students and teachers access to technology
17 will be a critical part of school improvement in the
18 21st century, and the provision of such access will
19 require renovation.

20 (10) The Federal Government has made a com-
21 mitment to support the education of students with
22 disabilities and providing such education can require
23 renovation and increased construction costs.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to pro-
 2 vide grants for school renovation, repair, and construction,
 3 with priority given to serving schools that—

4 (1) have been damaged or destroyed by a nat-
 5 ural disaster; or

6 (2) the State determines are high poverty or
 7 high growth schools.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
 11 “local educational agency” has the meaning given
 12 such term in section 9101 of the Elementary and
 13 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

14 (2) OUTLYING AREA.—The term “outlying
 15 area” has the meaning given such term in section
 16 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
 17 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

18 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 19 the Secretary of Education.

20 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
 21 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
 22 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

23 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR SCHOOL RENOVATION.**

24 (a) ALLOTMENTS.—

1 (1) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—From funds ap-
2 propriated under subsection (c) for a fiscal year, the
3 Secretary shall—

4 (A) reserve 7.5 percent to award grants to
5 local educational agencies—

6 (i) that received a basic support pay-
7 ment under section 8003(b) of the Elemen-
8 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 7703(b)) for the preceding fis-
10 cal year; and

11 (ii) with respect to which the number
12 of children determined under section
13 8003(a)(1)(C) of the Elementary and Sec-
14 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
15 7703(a)(1)(C)) for the preceding school
16 year constituted at least 50 percent of the
17 total student enrollment in the schools of
18 that agency during the preceding school
19 year,

20 for the construction, renovation, or repair of
21 schools served by those agencies; and

22 (B) reserve 0.325 percent to award grants
23 to local educational agencies in the outlying
24 areas for the renovation or repair of high-need
25 schools (as defined in section 2304(d)(3) of the

1 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
2 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6674(d)(3))) served by such
3 agencies.

4 (2) ALLOTMENT TO STATES.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
6 graph (B), from funds appropriated under sub-
7 section (c) for a fiscal year that are not re-
8 served under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
9 make an allotment to each State in an amount
10 that bears the same relation to the funds as the
11 amount the State received under part A of title
12 I of the Elementary and Secondary Education
13 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) for the
14 preceding fiscal year bears to the amount re-
15 ceived by all States under such part for the pre-
16 ceeding fiscal year.

17 (B) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—No State
18 receiving an allotment under subparagraph (A)
19 shall receive less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the
20 total amount allotted under such subparagraph.

21 (b) GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

22 A State that receives an allotment under subsection (a)(2)
23 shall expend—

24 (1) 75 percent of the allotted funds to award
25 grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational

1 agencies for the renovation or repair of schools
2 served by the agencies, with priority given to the
3 renovation or repair of schools that—

4 (A) have been damaged or destroyed by a
5 natural disaster; or

6 (B) the State determines are high poverty
7 or high growth schools; and

8 (2) 25 percent of the allotted funds to award
9 grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational
10 agencies—

11 (A) to carry out part B of the Individuals
12 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
13 1400 et seq.); or

14 (B) to improve technology in the schools
15 served by the local educational agencies.

16 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
18 \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2003 and each of the 4 suc-
19 ceeding fiscal years.

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