

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 826

To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to provide for transitional housing assistance grants for child victims of domestic violence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 9, 2003

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. BIDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to provide for transitional housing assistance grants for child victims of domestic violence.

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. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

4 **FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIO-**
5 **LENCE, STALKING, OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

6 Subtitle B of the Violence Against Women Act of
7 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13701 note; 108 Stat. 1925) is amended
8 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“CHAPTER 11—TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**
 2 **ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR CHILD VIC-**
 3 **TIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALK-**
 4 **ING, OR SEXUAL ASSAULT**

5 **“SEC. 40299. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS**
 6 **FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIO-**
 7 **LENCE, STALKING, OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, acting in
 9 consultation with the Director of the Violence Against
 10 Women Office of the Department of Justice, shall award
 11 grants under this section to States, units of local govern-
 12 ment, Indian tribes, and other organizations (referred to
 13 in this section as the ‘recipient’) to carry out programs
 14 to provide assistance to minors, adults, and their depend-
 15 ents—

16 “(1) who are homeless, or in need of transi-
 17 tional housing or other housing assistance, as a re-
 18 sult of fleeing a situation of domestic violence; and

19 “(2) for whom emergency shelter services or
 20 other crisis intervention services are unavailable or
 21 insufficient.

22 “(b) GRANTS.—Grants awarded under this section
 23 may be used for programs that provide—

24 “(1) short-term housing assistance, including
 25 rental or utilities payments assistance and assistance

1 with related expenses such as payment of security
2 deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to
3 transitional housing for persons described in sub-
4 section (a); and

5 “(2) support services designed to enable a
6 minor, an adult, or a dependent of such minor or
7 adult, who is fleeing a situation of domestic violence
8 to—

9 “(A) locate and secure permanent housing;
10 and

11 “(B) integrate into a community by pro-
12 viding that minor, adult, or dependent with
13 services, such as transportation, counseling,
14 child care services, case management, employ-
15 ment counseling, and other assistance.

16 “(c) DURATION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
18 graph (2), a minor, an adult, or a dependent, who
19 receives assistance under this section shall receive
20 that assistance for not more than 18 months.

21 “(2) WAIVER.—The recipient of a grant under
22 this section may waive the restriction under para-
23 graph (1) for not more than an additional 6 month
24 period with respect to any minor, adult, or depend-
25 ent, who—

1 “(A) has made a good-faith effort to ac-
2 quire permanent housing; and

3 “(B) has been unable to acquire perma-
4 nent housing.

5 “(d) APPLICATION—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desir-
7 ing a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
8 cation to the Attorney General at such time, in such
9 manner, and accompanied by such information as
10 the Attorney General may reasonably require.

11 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
12 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

13 “(A) describe the activities for which as-
14 sistance under this section is sought; and

15 “(B) provide such additional assurances as
16 the Attorney General determines to be essential
17 to ensure compliance with the requirements of
18 this section.

19 “(3) APPLICATION.—Nothing in this subsection
20 shall be construed to require—

21 “(A) victims to participate in the criminal
22 justice system in order to receive services; or

23 “(B) domestic violence advocates to breach
24 client confidentiality.

25 “(e) REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant
2 under this section shall annually prepare and submit
3 to the Attorney General a report describing—

4 “(A) the number of minors, adults, and de-
5 pendants assisted under this section; and

6 “(B) the types of housing assistance and
7 support services provided under this section.

8 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report prepared and
9 submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include
10 information regarding—

11 “(A) the amount of housing assistance pro-
12 vided to each minor, adult, or dependent, as-
13 sisted under this section and the reason for that
14 assistance;

15 “(B) the number of months each minor,
16 adult, or dependent, received assistance under
17 this section;

18 “(C) the number of minors, adults, and de-
19 pendants who—

20 “(i) were eligible to receive assistance
21 under this section; and

22 “(ii) were not provided with assistance
23 under this section solely due to a lack of
24 available housing; and

1 “(D) the type of support services provided
2 to each minor, adult, or dependent, assisted
3 under this section.

4 “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

5 “(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Attor-
6 ney General, with the Director of the Violence
7 Against Women Office, shall annually prepare and
8 submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the
9 House of Representatives and the Committee on the
10 Judiciary of the Senate a report that contains a
11 compilation of the information contained in the re-
12 port submitted under subsection (e).

13 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—In order to
14 coordinate efforts to assist the victims of domestic
15 violence, the Attorney General, in coordination with
16 the Director of the Violence Against Women Office,
17 shall transmit a copy of the report submitted under
18 paragraph (1) to—

19 “(A) the Office of Community Planning
20 and Development at the United States Depart-
21 ment of Housing and Urban Development; and

22 “(B) the Office of Women’s Health at the
23 United States Department of Health and
24 Human Services.

25 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated to carry out this section \$30,000,000
3 for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

4 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—Of the amount made avail-
5 able to carry out this section in any fiscal year, not
6 more than 3 percent may be used by the Attorney
7 General for salaries and administrative expenses.

8 “(3) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
10 subparagraph (B), unless all eligible applica-
11 tions submitted by any States, units of local
12 government, Indian tribes, or organizations
13 within a State for a grant under this section
14 have been funded, that State, together with the
15 grantees within the State (other than Indian
16 tribes), shall be allocated in each fiscal year,
17 not less than 0.75 percent of the total amount
18 appropriated in the fiscal year for grants pursu-
19 ant to this section.

20 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The United States Vir-
21 gin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the
22 Northern Mariana Islands shall each be allo-
23 cated not less than 0.25 percent of the total

1 amount appropriated in the fiscal year for
2 grants pursuant to this section.”.

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