

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1699

To amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2007

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, 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 “Strengthening Kids’  
5 Interest in Learning and Libraries Act” or the “SKILLs  
6 Act”.

1 **TITLE I—SCHOOL LIBRARY**  
2 **MEDIA SPECIALIST REQUIRE-**  
3 **MENTS**

4 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 Section 1002(b)(4) of the Elementary and Secondary  
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6302) is amended by  
7 striking “2002” and inserting “2008”.

8 **SEC. 102. STATE PLANS.**

9 Section 1111(b)(8) of the Elementary and Secondary  
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(8)) is amend-  
11 ed—

12 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and”  
13 after the semicolon;

14 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-  
15 paragraph (F); and

16 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(E) how the State educational agency will  
19 meet the goal of ensuring that there is not less  
20 than 1 highly qualified school library media spe-  
21 cialist in each school receiving funds under this  
22 part, as described in section 1119(h)(2); and”.

23 **SEC. 103. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.**

24 Section 1112(b)(1)(N) of the Elementary and Sec-  
25 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6312(b)(1)(N))

1 is amended by inserting “, including ensuring that there  
 2 is not less than 1 highly qualified school library media spe-  
 3 cialist in each school” before the semicolon.

4 **SEC. 104. SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS.**

5 Section 1114(b)(1)(D) of the Elementary and Sec-  
 6 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6314(b)(1)(D))  
 7 is amended by inserting “school library media specialists,”  
 8 after “teachers,”.

9 **SEC. 105. TARGETED ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS.**

10 Section 1115(c)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Sec-  
 11 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6315(c)(1)(F))  
 12 is amended by inserting “school library media specialists,”  
 13 after “teachers,”.

14 **SEC. 106. QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS, PARAPROFES-**  
 15 **SIONALS, AND SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPE-**  
 16 **CIALISTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1119 of the Elementary  
 18 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6319)  
 19 is amended—

20 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**TEACH-**  
 21 **ERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS**” and inserting  
 22 “**TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS, AND**  
 23 **SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS**”;

24 (2) by redesignating subsections (h) through (l)  
 25 as subsections (i) through (m), respectively;

1           (3) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3           “(h) SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS.—

4           “(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REQUIRE-  
5           MENT.—Each local educational agency receiving as-  
6           sistance under this part shall ensure, to the extent  
7           feasible, that each school that is served by the local  
8           educational agency and receives funds under this  
9           part employs not less than 1 highly qualified school  
10          library media specialist.

11          “(2) STATE GOAL.—Each State educational  
12          agency receiving assistance under this part shall—

13                 “(A) establish a goal of having not less  
14                 than 1 highly qualified school library media spe-  
15                 cialist in each public school that is served by  
16                 the State educational agency and receives funds  
17                 under this part; and

18                 “(B) specify a date by which the State will  
19                 reach this goal, which date shall be not later  
20                 than the beginning of the 2010–2011 school  
21                 year.”; and

22          (4) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by sub-  
23          section (a)(2)), by striking “and paraprofessionals”  
24          and inserting “, paraprofessionals, and school library  
25          and media specialists”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1119(l) of  
 2 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as  
 3 redesignated by subsection (a)(2)) (20 U.S.C. 6319(l)) is  
 4 amended by striking “subsection (1)” and inserting “sub-  
 5 section (m)”.

6 **SEC. 107. IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LI-**  
 7 **BRARIES.**

8 Section 1251 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
 9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6383) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “well-trained,  
 11 professionally certified” and inserting “highly quali-  
 12 fied”;

13 (2) in subsection (e)(3)—

14 (A) by striking “DISTRIBUTION.—The”  
 15 and inserting the following: “DISTRIBUTION.—

16 “(A) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The”;

17 and

18 (B) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(B) BALANCE AMONG TYPES OF  
 20 SCHOOLS.—In awarding grants under this sub-  
 21 section, the Secretary shall take into consider-  
 22 ation whether funding is proportionally distrib-  
 23 uted among projects serving students in ele-  
 24 mentary, middle, and high schools.”;

25 (3) in subsection (f)(2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (i) by inserting “the need for student  
3 literacy improvement at all grade levels,”  
4 before “the need for”; and

5 (ii) by striking “well-trained, profes-  
6 sionally certified” and inserting “highly  
7 qualified”;

8 (4) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting  
9 the following:

10 “(B) a needs assessment of which grade  
11 spans are served, ensuring funding is propor-  
12 tionally distributed to serve students in elemen-  
13 tary, middle, and high schools;”;

14 (5) in subsection (g)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking the semi-  
16 colon at the end and inserting “and reading  
17 materials, such as books and materials that—

18 “(A) are appropriate for students in all  
19 grade levels to be served and for students with  
20 special learning needs, including students who  
21 are limited English proficient; and

22 “(B) engage the interest of readers at all  
23 reading levels;”;

24 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “profes-  
25 sional development described in section

1           1222(d)(2)” and inserting “professional devel-  
 2           opment in information literacy instruction that  
 3           is appropriate for all grades, including the as-  
 4           sessment of student literacy needs, the coordi-  
 5           nation of reading and writing instruction across  
 6           content areas, and training in literacy strategies  
 7           in all content areas”.

8   **TITLE II—PREPARING, TEACH-**  
 9       **ING, AND RECRUITING HIGH**  
 10      **QUALITY TEACHERS, SCHOOL**  
 11      **LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIAL-**  
 12      **ISTS, AND PRINCIPALS**

13   **SEC. 201. TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST,**  
 14                    **AND PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING**  
 15                    **FUND.**

16           Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
 17   Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—

18           (1) in the title heading, by striking “**HIGH**  
 19           **QUALITY TEACHERS AND PRIN-**  
 20           **CIPALS**” and inserting “**HIGH QUALITY**  
 21           **TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA**  
 22           **SPECIALISTS, AND PRINCIPALS**”; and

23           (2) in the part heading, by striking “**TEACH-**  
 24           **ER AND PRINCIPAL**” and inserting

1       **“TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA**  
2       **SPECIALIST, AND PRINCIPAL”.**

3       **SEC. 202. PURPOSE.**

4       Section 2101(1) of the Elementary and Secondary  
5       Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601(1)) is amended  
6       to read as follows:

7               “(1) increase student academic achievement  
8       through strategies such as—

9                       “(A) improving teacher, school library  
10       media specialist, and principal quality; and

11                      “(B) increasing the number of highly  
12       qualified teachers in the classroom, highly  
13       qualified school library media specialists in the  
14       library, and highly qualified principals and as-  
15       sistant principals in schools; and”.

16       **SEC. 203. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

17       Section 2112(b) of the Elementary and Secondary  
18       Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6612(b)) is amended—

19               (1) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, school li-  
20       brary media specialists,” before “and principals”;  
21       and

22               (2) in paragraph (10), by inserting “, school li-  
23       brary media specialist,” before “and paraprofes-  
24       sional”.



1 **SEC. 204. STATE USE OF FUNDS.**

2 Section 2113(c) of the Elementary and Secondary  
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6613(c)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (4)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
6 (A), by inserting “highly qualified school library  
7 media specialists,” before “principals”; and

8 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,  
9 highly qualified school library media special-  
10 ists,” before “and principals”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking “teachers and  
12 principals” each place the term appears and insert-  
13 ing “teachers, school library media specialists, and  
14 principals”.

15 **SEC. 205. LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.**

16 Section 2123(a) of the Elementary and Secondary  
17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6623(a)) is amended  
18 by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

19 “(9)(A) Developing and implementing strategies  
20 to assist in recruiting and retaining highly qualified  
21 school library media specialists; and

22 “(B) providing appropriate professional devel-  
23 opment for such specialists, particularly related to  
24 skills necessary to assist students to improve the  
25 students’ academic achievement, including skills re-  
26 lated to information literacy.”.

# TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

## 3 SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

4 Section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary  
5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(23)) is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(II), by striking  
8 “and” after the semicolon;

9 (2) in subparagraph (C)(ii)(VII), by striking  
10 the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(D) when used with respect to a school li-  
13 brary media specialist employed in an elemen-  
14 tary school or secondary school in a State,  
15 means that the school library media specialist—

16 “(i) holds at least a bachelor’s degree;

17 “(ii) has obtained full State certifi-  
18 cation as a school library media specialist  
19 or passed the State teacher licensing exam-  
20 ination, with State certification in library  
21 media, in such State, except that when  
22 used with respect to any school library  
23 media specialist teaching in a public char-  
24 ter school, the term means that the school  
25 library media specialist meets the require-

1                   ments set forth in the State’s public char-  
2                   ter school law; and

3                   “(iii) has not had certification or li-  
4                   censure requirements waived on an emer-  
5                   gency, temporary, or provisional basis.”.

6 **SEC. 302. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

7           (a) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in  
8 section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
9 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 note) is amended—

10                   (1) by striking the item relating to section 1119  
11                   and inserting the following:

“Sec. 1119. Qualifications for teachers, paraprofessionals, and school library  
media specialists.”;

12                   (2) by striking the item relating to title II and  
13                   inserting the following:

“TITLE II—PREPARING, TRAINING, AND RECRUITING HIGH QUAL-  
ITY TEACHERS, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS, AND  
PRINCIPALS”;

14                   and

15                   (3) by striking the item relating to part A of  
16                   title II and inserting the following:

“PART A—TEACHER, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST, AND PRINCIPAL  
TRAINING AND RECRUITING FUND”.

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