

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1857

To establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2007

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

A BILL

To establish a digital and wireless network technology program, 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 “Minority Serving Insti-
5 tutions for Advanced Technology and Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of the program under this Act are to—

8 (1) strengthen the ability of eligible institutions
9 to provide capacity for instruction in digital and
10 wireless network technologies; and

1 (2) strengthen the national digital and wireless
2 infrastructure by increasing national investment in
3 telecommunications and technology infrastructure at
4 eligible institutions.

5 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.**

6 In this Act, the term “eligible institution” means an
7 institution that is—

8 (1) a historically Black college or university
9 that is a part B institution, as defined in section
10 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. 1061);

12 (2) a Hispanic-serving institution, as defined in
13 section 502(a) of such Act;

14 (3) a Tribal College or University, as defined in
15 section 316(b) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b));

16 (4) an Alaska Native-serving institution, as de-
17 fined in section 317(b) of such Act (20 U.S.C.
18 1059d(b));

19 (5) a Native Hawaiian-serving institution, as
20 defined in section 317(b) of such Act (20 U.S.C.
21 1059d(b)); or

22 (6) an institution determined by the Secretary
23 to have enrolled a substantial number of minority,
24 low-income students during the previous academic

1 year who received a Federal Pell Grant for that
2 year.

3 **SEC. 3A. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

4 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
5 retary of Education.

6 **SEC. 4. MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS FOR ADVANCED**
7 **TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION.**

8 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
10 to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
11 institutions to enable the eligible institutions to
12 carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

13 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—The Secretary may award
14 a grant to an eligible institution under this Act for
15 a period of not more than 5 years.

16 (b) APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
18 grant under this Act, an eligible institution shall
19 submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
20 in such manner, and containing such information as
21 the Secretary may reasonably require. The applica-
22 tion shall include—

23 (A) a program of activities for carrying out
24 1 or more of the purposes described in section
25 2; and

1 (B) such other policies, procedures, and as-
2 surances as the Secretary may require by regu-
3 lation.

4 (2) REGULATIONS.—After consultation with ap-
5 propriate individuals with expertise in technology
6 and education, the Secretary shall establish a proce-
7 dure by which to accept and review such applications
8 and publish an announcement of such procedure, in-
9 cluding a statement regarding the availability of
10 funds, in the Federal Register.

11 (3) APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA.—The ap-
12 plication review criteria used by the Secretary for
13 grants under this Act shall include consideration
14 of—

15 (A) demonstrated need for assistance
16 under this Act; and

17 (B) diversity among the types of eligible
18 institutions receiving assistance under this Act.

19 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution that
21 receives a grant under this Act shall agree that, with
22 respect to the costs to be incurred by the institution
23 in carrying out the program for which the grant is
24 awarded, such institution will make available (di-
25 rectly or through donations from public or private

1 entities) non-Federal contributions in an amount
2 equal to 25 percent of the amount of the grant
3 awarded by the Secretary, or \$500,000, whichever is
4 the lesser amount.

5 (2) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall waive the
6 matching requirement for any eligible institution
7 with no endowment, or an endowment that has a
8 current dollar value as of the time of the application
9 of less than \$50,000,000.

10 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution shall
11 use a grant awarded under this Act—

12 (1) to acquire equipment, instrumentation, net-
13 working capability, hardware and software, digital
14 network technology, wireless technology, and infra-
15 structure;

16 (2) to develop and provide educational services,
17 including faculty development, related to science,
18 technology, engineering, and mathematics;

19 (3) to provide teacher preparation and profes-
20 sional development, library and media specialist
21 training, and early childhood educator and teacher
22 aide certification or licensure to individuals who seek
23 to acquire or enhance technology skills in order to
24 use technology in the classroom or instructional
25 process to improve student achievement;

1 (4) to form consortia or collaborative projects
2 with a State, State educational agency, local edu-
3 cational agency, community-based organization, na-
4 tional nonprofit organization, or business, including
5 a minority business, to provide education regarding
6 technology in the classroom;

7 (5) to provide professional development in
8 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics to
9 administrators and faculty of eligible institutions
10 with institutional responsibility for technology edu-
11 cation;

12 (6) to provide capacity-building technical assist-
13 ance to eligible institutions through remote technical
14 support, technical assistance workshops, distance
15 learning, new technologies, and other technological
16 applications; and

17 (7) to foster the use of information communica-
18 tions technology to increase scientific, technological,
19 engineering, and mathematical instruction and re-
20 search.

21 (e) DATA COLLECTION.—An eligible institution that
22 receives a grant under this Act shall provide the Secretary
23 with any relevant institutional statistical or demographic
24 data requested by the Secretary.

1 (f) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary
2 shall convene an annual meeting of eligible institutions re-
3 ceiving grants under this Act for the purposes of—

4 (1) fostering collaboration and capacity-building
5 activities among eligible institutions; and

6 (2) disseminating information and ideas gen-
7 erated by such meetings.

8 (g) LIMITATION.—An eligible institution that receives
9 a grant under this Act that exceeds \$2,500,000 shall not
10 be eligible to receive another grant under this Act until
11 every other eligible institution that has applied for a grant
12 under this Act has received such a grant.

13 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT AND EVALUATION.**

14 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED FROM RECIPI-
15 ENTS.—Each eligible institution that receives a grant
16 under this Act shall provide an annual report to the Sec-
17 retary on the eligible institution’s use of the grant.

18 (b) EVALUATION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary
19 shall—

20 (1) review the reports provided under sub-
21 section (a) each year; and

22 (2) evaluate the program authorized under this
23 Act on the basis of those reports every 2 years.

24 (c) CONTENTS OF EVALUATION.—The Secretary, in
25 the evaluation under subsection (b), shall—

1 (1) describe the activities undertaken by the eli-
2 gible institutions that receive grants under this Act;
3 and

4 (2) assess the short-range and long-range im-
5 pact of activities carried out under the grant on the
6 students, faculty, and staff of the institutions.

7 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
9 submit a report on the program supported under this Act
10 to the authorizing committees that shall include such rec-
11 ommendations, including recommendations concerning the
12 continuing need for Federal support of the program, as
13 may be appropriate.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
16 this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
17 2008 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

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