

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5967

To amend the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize grants to support the use of public libraries for community economic development.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. TAKANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize grants to support the use of public libraries for community economic development.

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 “Public Library Innova-
5 tion Space Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 Subsection (a) of section 214 of the Museum and Li-
8 brary Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9123(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

6 “(3) to carry out chapter 5, \$10,000,000 for
7 each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

8 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC LIBRARY MAKERSPACE GRANTS.**

9 Subtitle B of title II of the Museum and Library
10 Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) is amended by add-
11 ing at the end the following:

12 **“CHAPTER 5—PUBLIC LIBRARY**
13 **MAKERSPACE GRANT PROGRAM**

14 **“SEC. 265. PUBLIC LIBRARY MAKERSPACE GRANT PRO-**
15 **GRAM.**

16 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts
17 provided under section 214(a)(3), the Director shall carry
18 out a program under which the Director makes grants,
19 on a competitive basis, to eligible partnerships to establish
20 makerspaces at public libraries.

21 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—To be considered for a grant
22 under this section, an eligible partnership shall submit an
23 application to the Director at such time, in such manner,
24 and containing such information and assurances as the
25 Director may require.

1 “(c) SELECTION OF GRANTEES.—In selecting eligible
2 partnerships to receive grants under this section, the Di-
3 rector shall consider—

4 “(1) the viability of the partnership making the
5 application;

6 “(2) the ability of the partnership to meet the
7 matching requirement described in subsection (d);

8 “(3) the potential of the project to provide so-
9 cial and economic benefits to the local community;

10 “(4) the support of local communities, govern-
11 ment, and partners for the project;

12 “(5) the project’s potential for strengthening
13 the involvement of diverse and underserved commu-
14 nities in entrepreneurship and economic develop-
15 ment; and

16 “(6) the ability of the project to continue after
17 the end of the grant period.

18 “(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partnership
20 shall contribute, for the activities for which the
21 grant was awarded under this section, non-Federal
22 matching funds in an amount determined appro-
23 priate by the Director.

24 “(2) WAIVER.—The Director may waive the re-
25 quirement of paragraph (1) for any eligible partner-

1 ship that the Director determines does not have ade-
2 quate resources to meet such requirement.

3 “(e) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once annu-
4 ally, the Director shall submit to Congress a report that
5 includes—

6 “(1) a description of the activities carried out
7 with grants under this section; and

8 “(2) an assessment of the effect of the grant
9 program on community economic development.

10 “(f) TREATMENT OF MAKERSPACES.—The use of a
11 makerspace supported by a grant under this section shall
12 not be treated as a private business use under section
13 141(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

14 “(g) PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.—
15 An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this
16 section may not use grant funds, or matching funds con-
17 tributed by the partnership under subsection (d), for con-
18 struction activities at a public library that would provide
19 extra square footage to house a makerspace.

20 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-
22 ble partnership’ means a partnership that includes a
23 public library and—

24 “(A) an economic development corporation;

25 “(B) a local government;

1 “(C) a tribal government;

2 “(D) a State government;

3 “(E) an elementary school or secondary
4 school (as such terms are defined in section
5 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

7 “(F) a museum;

8 “(G) an institution of higher education (as
9 such term is defined in section 102 of the High-
10 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

11 “(H) a nonprofit organization;

12 “(I) a corporation;

13 “(J) other entities identified by the Direc-
14 tor; or

15 “(K) a combination of entities described in
16 any of subparagraphs (A) through (I).

17 “(2) MAKERSPACE.—The term ‘makerspace’
18 means a facility (which may be a facility at a fixed
19 location or a mobile unit) that is open to the public
20 and provides individuals with access to—

21 “(A) tools, technology, and educational re-
22 sources that are designed to enable such indi-
23 viduals to create physical goods, including pro-
24 totypes; and

1 “(B) educational opportunities, including
2 vocational training and assistance with early-
3 stage business ventures.”.

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