

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3623

To provide for an enhanced Coronavirus relief fund for units of government with a population of 500,000 or less, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2020

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations

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## A BILL

To provide for an enhanced Coronavirus relief fund for units of government with a population of 500,000 or less, 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 “Coronavirus Commu-  
5 nity Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND FOR UNITS OF GOV-**  
 2 **ERNMENT WITH A POPULATION OF 500,000 OR**  
 3 **LESS.**

4 Title VI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801  
 5 et seq.) (as added by section 5001(a) of the Coronavirus  
 6 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–  
 7 136)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 602. CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND FOR UNITS OF GOV-**  
 9 **ERNMENT WITH A POPULATION OF 500,000 OR**  
 10 **LESS.**

11 “(a) **APPROPRIATION.**—Out of any money in the  
 12 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated,  
 13 there are appropriated for making payments to units of  
 14 local government with a population of 500,000 or less,  
 15 \$250,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

16 “(b) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE PAYMENTS.**—The Sec-  
 17 retary shall pay to a unit of local government the relative  
 18 unit of local government population proportion amount de-  
 19 termined for such government under subsection (c)(4)  
 20 within 30 days after such government submits the certifi-  
 21 cation required by subsection (e).

22 “(c) **PAYMENT AMOUNTS.**—

23 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The maximum aggregate  
 24 amount paid under this section for fiscal year 2020  
 25 to units of local government in a State shall not ex-  
 26 ceed the relative population proportion amount de-

1       terminated for the State under paragraph (2) for such  
2       fiscal year.

3               “(2) RELATIVE POPULATION PROPORTION  
4       AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the rel-  
5       ative population proportion amount determined  
6       under this paragraph for a State for fiscal year  
7       2020 is the product of—

8               “(A) the amount appropriated under sub-  
9       section (a) for fiscal year 2020; and

10              “(B) the relative State population propor-  
11       tion determined under paragraph (3).

12              “(3) RELATIVE STATE POPULATION PROPOR-  
13       TION DEFINED.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B),  
14       with respect to a State, the relative State population  
15       proportion is the quotient of—

16              “(A) the population of the State; and

17              “(B) the total population of all States.

18              “(4) RELATIVE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
19       POPULATION PROPORTION AMOUNT.—For purposes  
20       of subsection (b), with respect to a unit of local gov-  
21       ernment, the relative unit of local government popu-  
22       lation proportion amount is equal to the product  
23       of—

24              “(A) the relative population proportion  
25       amount determined under paragraph (2) for the

1 State in which the unit of local government is  
2 located; and

3 “(B) the quotient of—

4 “(i) the population of the unit of local  
5 government; and

6 “(ii) the sum of the population of all  
7 units of local government with a population  
8 of 500,000 or less within the State that  
9 submit the certification required by sub-  
10 section (e) by the deadline specified in that  
11 subsection.

12 “(5) DATA.—For purposes of this subsection,  
13 the population of States and units of local govern-  
14 ments shall be determined based on the most recent  
15 year for which data are available from the Bureau  
16 of the Census.

17 “(6) OTHER RELIEF.—The payments made  
18 under this section shall be in addition to, and shall  
19 not affect or reduce, payments made to units of local  
20 government with a population that exceeds 500,000  
21 under section 601.

22 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A unit of local government  
24 shall use the funds provided under a payment made

1 under this section to cover only those costs of the  
2 unit of local government that—

3 “(A) such government reasonably deems to  
4 be necessary and directly or indirectly involve,  
5 relate to, are, have been, or will be incurred due  
6 to, or are, have been, or will be a response to  
7 circumstances caused by, the public health  
8 emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Dis-  
9 ease 2019 (COVID–19); and

10 “(B) were incurred during the period that  
11 begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on Decem-  
12 ber 30, 2020.

13 “(2) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS.—If a  
14 unit of local government determines it will not ex-  
15 pend all of the funds paid to the government under  
16 this section by the end of the period described in  
17 paragraph (1)(B), the government may transfer the  
18 unexpended portion of such funds to another unit of  
19 local government in the State with a population of  
20 500,000 or less. Funds transferred under this para-  
21 graph—

22 “(A) shall be used by the unit of local gov-  
23 ernment receiving such funds consistent with  
24 the requirements of paragraph (1); and

1                   “(B) shall be deemed to be a cost of the  
2                   unit of local government making the transfer.

3                   “(e) CERTIFICATION.—In order to receive a payment  
4 under this section, a unit of local government shall provide  
5 the Secretary with a certification signed by the Chief Ex-  
6 ecutive (or equivalent) for the unit of local government  
7 that the local government’s uses of the funds are or will  
8 be consistent with subsection (d) not later than 15 days  
9 after the date of enactment of this section.

10                  “(f)       INSPECTOR       GENERAL       OVERSIGHT;  
11 RECOUPMENT.—

12                   “(1) OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.—The Inspector  
13                   General of the Department of the Treasury shall  
14                   conduct monitoring and oversight of the receipt, dis-  
15                   bursement, and use of funds made available under  
16                   this section.

17                   “(2) RECOUPMENT.—If the Inspector General  
18                   of the Department of the Treasury determines that  
19                   a unit of local government has failed to comply with  
20                   subsection (d), the amount equal to the amount of  
21                   funds used in violation of such subsection shall be  
22                   booked as a debt of such entity owed to the Federal  
23                   Government. Amounts recovered under this sub-  
24                   section shall be deposited into the general fund of  
25                   the Treasury.

1           “(3) AUTHORITY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—  
2           Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to di-  
3           minish the authority of any Inspector General, in-  
4           cluding such authority as provided in the Inspector  
5           General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

6           “(4) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding section  
7           601(f)(3), the Inspector General of the Department  
8           of the Treasury may use the amounts appropriated  
9           under that section to carry out oversight and  
10          recoupment activities under this section in addition  
11          to the oversight and recoupment activities carried  
12          out under section 601(f).

13          “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14               “(1) COSTS.—The term ‘costs’ includes, but is  
15               not limited to, lost revenue, reimbursement for ex-  
16               penses incurred before the date of enactment of this  
17               section, and increases in costs reasonably believed to  
18               be the direct or indirect result of, or direct or indi-  
19               rect responses to circumstances caused by, the pub-  
20               lic health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus  
21               Disease 2019 (COVID–19).

22               “(2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘unit of  
23               local government’ means any of the following that  
24               has a population of 500,000 or below: a county, mu-  
25               nicipality, town, township, village, parish, borough,

1 or other unit of general government below the State  
2 level.

3 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
4 the Secretary of the Treasury.

5 “(4) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means the 50  
6 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth  
7 of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands,  
8 Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
9 Islands, and American Samoa.”.

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