

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7251

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to eligible local educational agencies to encourage female students to pursue studies and careers in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2022

Mr. MCNERNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to eligible local educational agencies to encourage female students to pursue studies and careers in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

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 “Getting Involved in
5 Researching, Learning, and Studying of Science, Tech-
6 nology, Engineering, and Mathematics Act” or the
7 “GIRLS STEM Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PREPARE FEMALES FOR THE 21ST CEN-**
2 **TURY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Elementary and
4 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et
5 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“PART G—PREPARING FEMALE STUDENTS FOR**
7 **THE 21ST CENTURY**

8 **“SEC. 4701. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From funds provided under sec-
10 tion 4702, the Secretary may provide grants to eligible
11 local educational agencies to enable elementary schools
12 and secondary schools served by the agencies to establish
13 and implement a program to—

14 “(1) encourage the ongoing interest of female
15 students in careers requiring skills in science, math-
16 ematics, engineering, or technology at all levels of
17 the career pathway, including at the technician level;
18 and

19 “(2) prepare female students to pursue indus-
20 try-recognized credentials, such as certificates, li-
21 censes, undergraduate, and graduate degrees, needed
22 to pursue a career in the science, mathematics, engi-
23 neering, or technology field.

24 “(b) GRANT AWARDS.—A grant awarded under this
25 part shall be awarded in four school year increments.

26 “(c) APPLICATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
2 grant, or enter into a contract or cooperative agree-
3 ment, under this part an eligible local educational
4 agency shall submit an application to the Secretary
5 at such time and in such manner as the Secretary
6 may require.

7 “(2) CONTENTS.—The application shall con-
8 tain, at a minimum, the following:

9 “(A) A program description, including the
10 content of the program and the research and
11 models used to design the program.

12 “(B) A description of the collaboration be-
13 tween elementary schools and secondary schools
14 to fulfill goals of the program and how the eligi-
15 ble local educational agency will ensure that
16 there is a comprehensive plan to improve
17 science, mathematics, engineering, and tech-
18 nology education for female students in kinder-
19 garten through grade 12.

20 “(C) A description of the process for re-
21 cruitment and selection of participants.

22 “(D) A description of the planned instruc-
23 tional and motivational activities.

24 “(E) A description of any collaboration
25 among local, regional, or national institutions

1 and organizations that will be necessary to ful-
2 fill the goals of the program.

3 “(3) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting an eligible
4 local educational agency to receive a grant under
5 this part, the Secretary shall consider the applica-
6 tion of each eligible local educational agency that
7 demonstrates that the agency will use the grant
8 funds to carry out the activities described in sub-
9 section (d).

10 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible local educational
11 agency shall use a grant received under this section to
12 carry out the following:

13 “(1) Acquainting female students with careers
14 requiring skills in science, mathematics, engineering,
15 and technology, and preparing such students for
16 pursuing careers in such areas, including careers in
17 such areas at the technician level.

18 “(2) Educating the parents of female students
19 about the opportunities and advantages of science,
20 mathematics, engineering, and technology careers.

21 “(3) Providing tutoring and mentoring pro-
22 grams for female students in science, mathematics,
23 engineering, and technology.

24 “(4) Establishing partnerships and other oppor-
25 tunities that expose female students to role models,

1 events, academic programs, or career and technical
2 education programs in the fields of science, mathe-
3 matics, engineering, and technology.

4 “(5) Providing after-school activities designed
5 to encourage interest, and develop skills of female
6 students, in science, mathematics, engineering, and
7 technology.

8 “(6) Carrying out summer programs designed
9 to assist female students in—

10 “(A) developing an interest and skills in;
11 and

12 “(B) understanding the relevance and sig-
13 nificance of, science, mathematics, engineering,
14 and technology.

15 “(7) Purchasing educational instructional mate-
16 rials, equipment, and instrumentation or software
17 designed to teach and encourage interest of female
18 students in science, mathematics, engineering, and
19 technology.

20 “(8) Providing academic and career counseling
21 services and assistance in secondary school course
22 selection that encourages female students to take
23 courses that provide preparation for postsecondary
24 education, and experiential learning opportunities
25 (such as apprenticeships, mentorships, internships),

1 in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and
2 mathematics.

3 “(9) Facilitating internships in science, mathe-
4 matics, engineering, or technology for female stu-
5 dents.

6 “(10) Providing professional development for
7 teachers and other school personnel that includes—

8 “(A) topics on how to eliminate gender
9 bias in the classroom;

10 “(B) topics on how to engage students in
11 the face of gender-based peer pressure and pa-
12 rental expectations; and

13 “(C) increased instructional strategies and
14 content knowledge of science, mathematics, en-
15 gineering, and technology.

16 “(e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—The Secretary
17 shall require each eligible local educational agency receiv-
18 ing a grant under this part to supplement, and not to sup-
19 plant, any other assistance or funds made available from
20 non-Federal sources for the activities assisted under this
21 part.

22 “(f) EVALUATIONS.—Each eligible local educational
23 agency that receives a grant under this part shall provide
24 the Secretary, at the conclusion of every school year dur-
25 ing which the funds are received, with an evaluation as-

1 sessing the improvements made in the areas described in
2 subsection (a), in a form prescribed by the Secretary.

3 “(g) **ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DE-**
4 **FINED.**—For purposes of this part, the term ‘eligible local
5 educational agency’ means a local educational agency that
6 serves underrepresented or low-income students.

7 **“SEC. 4702. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
9 this part \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 through
10 2027.”.

11 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of con-
12 tents for such Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended
13 by adding at the end of the items relating to title IV the
14 following:

“PART G—PREPARING FEMALES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

“Sec. 4701. Program authority.

“Sec. 4702. Authorization of appropriations.”.

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