

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1795

To modify the program of grants to support high-quality charter schools.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2025

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

A BILL

To modify the program of grants to support high-quality charter schools.

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 “Empower Charter
5 School Educators to Lead Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER**
7 **SCHOOLS.**

8 Section 4303 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7221b) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “and”
2 after the semicolon; and

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(2)(A) provide technical assistance to eligible
6 applicants and authorized public chartering agencies
7 in carrying out the activities described in paragraph
8 (1);

9 “(B) work with authorized public chartering
10 agencies in the State to improve authorizing quality,
11 including developing capacity for, and conducting,
12 fiscal oversight and auditing of charter schools; and

13 “(C) at the State entity’s discretion—

14 “(i) fund a revolving loan fund or similar
15 mechanisms for expenses under subsection (h)
16 prior to an eligible applicant receiving reim-
17 bursement; and

18 “(ii) provide assistance to eligible appli-
19 cants in locating and accessing a facility; and

20 “(3) provide pre-charter planning subgrants (in
21 amounts of no more than \$100,000 per prospective
22 applicant) to charter school developers that—

23 “(A) intend to submit an application—

24 “(i) to an authorized public chartering
25 agency to operate a charter school; or

1 “(ii) to nonprofit or public entities for
 2 the provision of financial support to such
 3 developers;

4 “(B) are led by educators who—

5 “(i) have not less than 54 months of
 6 school-based experience (which may include
 7 experience in teaching in or administering
 8 after school or summer school programs);
 9 and

10 “(ii) have demonstrated leadership
 11 competencies and success with students, as
 12 determined by the State entity; and

13 “(C) have successfully completed the devel-
 14 opment of an initial plan for opening a charter
 15 school, as evidenced by a description of the edu-
 16 cational needs of the community in which the
 17 proposed charter school will be located and how
 18 the proposed charter school will be suited to
 19 meet those needs.”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “90
 22 percent” and inserting “80 percent”;

23 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) by striking “not less than 7 per-
 2 cent” and inserting “not more than 10
 3 percent”; and

4 (ii) by striking “and” after the semi-
 5 colon;

6 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
 7 subparagraph (D);

8 (D) in subparagraph (D), as so redesign-
 9 nated, by striking “3 percent” and inserting “5
 10 percent”; and

11 (E) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
 12 the following:

13 “(C) reserve not more than 5 percent of
 14 such funds to carry out the activities described
 15 in subsection (b)(3); and”;

16 (3) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking “this
 17 section” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)”;

18 (4) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “this sec-
 19 tion” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)”;

20 (5) in subsection (f)(1)(A)(vi)—

21 (A) in the matter preceding subclause (I),
 22 by inserting “under subsection (b)(1)” after
 23 “program”; and

24 (B) in subclause (II), by striking
 25 “subgrant funds under this section” and insert-

1 ing “subgrant funds under subsection (b)(1)”;
2 and
3 (6) in subsection (h), in the matter preceding
4 paragraph (1), by striking “this section” and insert-
5 ing “subsection (b)(1)”.

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