

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 257

To establish a Governor’s Emergency STEM Promotion Fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Mrs. SHAHEEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish a Governor’s Emergency STEM Promotion Fund, 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 “Emergency Support
5 for STEM Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The COVID–19 pandemic has caused tre-
9 mendous repercussions within the kindergarten

1 through grade 12 education system of the United
2 States.

3 (2) It is imperative to support hands-on learn-
4 ing opportunities in science, technology, engineering,
5 and mathematics (referred to in this section as
6 “STEM”) education through programs that—

7 (A) provide innovative experiences for stu-
8 dents;

9 (B) have strong track records of success;
10 and

11 (C) typically include nonprofit partnerships
12 among the schools, nonprofit organizations, and
13 private businesses.

14 (3) Due to the severe economic damage caused
15 by the COVID–19 pandemic to organizations offer-
16 ing STEM programs, these programs now face sig-
17 nificant funding challenges.

18 (4) The long-term effects of the COVID–19
19 pandemic will be felt for years to come without pub-
20 lic economic educational support to help these types
21 of STEM opportunities.

22 (5) Lack of investment in these critical pro-
23 grams will lead to limited innovative learning oppor-
24 tunities in the STEM fields, causing a drastic loss

1 of technical and professional skills training for this
 2 generation of students.

3 **SEC. 3. GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY STEM PROMOTION**
 4 **FUND.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
 7 school”, “high school”, “secondary school”, and
 8 “State” have the meanings given the terms in sec-
 9 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
 10 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

11 (2) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT PROGRAM.—The
 12 term “eligible nonprofit program”—

13 (A) means a nonprofit program serving
 14 prekindergarten, elementary school, or sec-
 15 ondary school students; and

16 (B) includes a program described in sub-
 17 paragraph (A) that covers the continuum of
 18 education from prekindergarten through high
 19 school and is available in every State.

20 (3) ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL.—The term “eli-
 21 gible public school” means a public elementary
 22 school or secondary school.

23 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 24 the Secretary of Education.

1 (5) STEM.—The term “STEM” means science,
2 technology, engineering, and mathematics.

3 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
5 able under subsection (e), the Secretary shall make
6 Emergency STEM Promotion grants to the Gov-
7 ernor of each State with an approved application.

8 (2) TIMING.—The Secretary shall issue a notice
9 inviting applications not later than 30 days after the
10 date of enactment of this Act and shall award grants
11 by not later than 30 days after the issuance of the
12 notice.

13 (3) AMOUNT.—Each State with an approved
14 application shall receive a grant under paragraph (1)
15 in an amount that bears the same relation to the
16 amounts made available under subsection (e) as the
17 number of children aged 5 through 17 in the State
18 bears to the number of such children in all States
19 with approved applications.

20 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a grant
22 under subsection (b)—

23 (A) shall use not less than 90 percent of
24 such grant funds to provide subgrants to eligi-
25 ble public schools or eligible nonprofit programs

1 to support hands-on learning opportunities in
2 STEM education, including via remote learning,
3 after-school activities, and innovative learning
4 opportunities such as robotics competitions; and

5 (B) may reserve—

6 (i) not more than one-half of 1 per-
7 cent for administrative costs; and

8 (ii) the remainder of any funds not
9 used in accordance with clause (i) or sub-
10 paragraph (A) for emergency needs, as de-
11 termined by the State educational agency.

12 (2) AWARD BASIS.—In awarding subgrants
13 under this subsection, a State shall ensure that the
14 majority of subgrant funds provided by the State are
15 to—

16 (A) eligible public schools that—

17 (i) are implementing comprehensive
18 support and improvement activities and
19 targeted support and improvement activi-
20 ties under section 1111(d) of the Elemen-
21 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
22 (20 U.S.C. 6311(d)); or

23 (ii) serve high percentages of students
24 who are eligible for a free or reduced price
25 lunch under the Richard B. Russell Na-

1 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751
 2 et seq.) (which, in the case of a high
 3 school, may be calculated using comparable
 4 data from the schools that feed into the
 5 high school); or

6 (B) eligible nonprofit programs serving
 7 students that attend eligible public schools de-
 8 scribed in subparagraph (A).

9 (3) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible public
 11 school or eligible nonprofit program receiving a
 12 subgrant under this subsection shall provide, to-
 13 ward the cost of the activities assisted under
 14 the subgrant, an amount equal to 100 percent
 15 of the amount of the subgrant funds.

16 (B) PAYMENT BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL
 17 AGENCY.—The matching funds required under
 18 subparagraph (A) for an eligible public school
 19 may be provided by the eligible public school or
 20 by the local educational agency that serves such
 21 school.

22 (d) REALLOCATION.—A State shall return to the Sec-
 23 retary any funds received under this section that the State
 24 does not award within 2 years of receiving such funds and

1 the Secretary shall reallocate such funds to the remaining
 2 States in accordance with subsection (b).

3 (e) AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
 5 appropriated to carry out this section, and there are
 6 appropriated, out of any amounts in the Treasury
 7 not otherwise appropriated, \$200,000,000 for fiscal
 8 year 2021.

9 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available
 10 under this subsection shall remain available until ex-
 11 pended.

12 (3) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided
 14 by this section are designated as an emergency
 15 requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the
 16 Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2
 17 U.S.C. 933(g)).

18 (B) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the
 19 Senate, this section is designated as an emer-
 20 gency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a)
 21 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the con-
 22 current resolution on the budget for fiscal year
 23 2018.

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