

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6026

To amend section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to award grants to institutions of higher education for courses that use only publicly available digital resources for required reading assignments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 2023

Mr. FOSTER introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to award grants to institutions of higher education for courses that use only publicly available digital resources for required reading assignments, 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 “No Cost Educational
5 Resources Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS.**

2 Section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act
3 (20 U.S.C. 9162) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph
6 (1)—

7 (i) by striking “nationwide and to”
8 and inserting “nationwide, to”; and

9 (ii) by inserting “, and to provide
10 funding for open educational reading mate-
11 rial courses” after “museums”;

12 (B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking
13 “and” at the end;

14 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
15 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (D) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(6) facilitating the adoption, adaption, and
18 creation of open educational reading materials, and
19 establishing more open educational reading material
20 courses, pursuant to subsection (d).”;

21 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “The Direc-
22 tor” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection
23 (d), the Director”; and

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

25 “(d) OPEN EDUCATIONAL READING MATERIAL
26 COURSES.—

1 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sec-
2 tion:

3 “(A) The term ‘open educational reading
4 material’ means a free digital text that is pub-
5 licly available to be downloaded and redistrib-
6 uted.

7 “(B) The term ‘open educational reading
8 material course’ means a science, technology,
9 engineering, or math course offered by an insti-
10 tution of higher education that uses only open
11 educational reading materials as the form of the
12 required readings for the course.

13 “(2) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under
14 subsection (a)(6), an institution of higher education
15 shall submit to the Director an application that in-
16 cludes—

17 “(A) a description of how the institution of
18 higher education—

19 “(i) plans to facilitate the adoption,
20 adaption, and creation of open educational
21 reading materials by assigning leadership
22 of the grant implementation to library ad-
23 ministrators and librarians;

24 “(ii) has collaborated with science,
25 technology, engineering, and mathematics

1 department faculty in developing the appli-
2 cation and plans to continue to collaborate
3 with such faculty in implementing the
4 grant projects; and

5 “(iii) plans to collaborate with other
6 institutions of higher education to facilitate
7 the wider adoption, adaption, and creation
8 of open educational reading materials
9 throughout the higher education commu-
10 nity; and

11 “(B) a plan to review the quality of the
12 open educational reading materials used at such
13 institution of higher education.

14 “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under
15 subsection (a)(6), the Director shall give priority to
16 an institution of higher education that—

17 “(A) enrolls a high number of low-income
18 or minority students, or both; and

19 “(B) plans—

20 “(i) to assign a member of the faculty
21 and a librarian to coordinate the imple-
22 mentation of open educational reading ma-
23 terial courses;

1 “(ii) to use library resources to facili-
2 tate the use of open educational reading
3 materials;

4 “(iii) to use open educational reading
5 materials as the form of the required read-
6 ings for science, technology, engineering,
7 and mathematics courses with high enroll-
8 ment; and

9 “(iv) to provide incentives for faculty
10 to use only open educational reading mate-
11 rials as the form of the required readings
12 for their courses, such as monetary awards
13 or dedicated work time to adopt, adapt, or
14 create such materials.

15 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
16 date on which the first grant is awarded under sub-
17 section (a)(6), the Director shall submit to Congress
18 a report that includes—

19 “(A) the number of grants awarded under
20 subsection (a)(6);

21 “(B) an evaluation of the effect of such
22 grants on increasing the number of science,
23 technology, engineering, and mathematics
24 courses using open educational reading mate-

1 rials as the form of required readings for such
2 courses; and

3 “(C) an evaluation of the amount of money
4 saved by students who enroll in open edu-
5 cational reading material courses in comparison
6 to students who enroll in similar courses with
7 required readings that are only available by
8 purchase.”.

○