

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 327

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide up-to-date school library media resources and well-trained, professionally certified school library media specialists for elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. REID, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. BAUCUS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide up-to-date school library media resources and well-trained, professionally certified school library media specialists for elementary schools and secondary schools, 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 “Improving Literacy
5 Through School Libraries Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA RESOURCES.**

2 Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating part E as part F; and

5 (2) by inserting after part D the following:

6 **“PART E—ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

7 **TO IMPROVE LITERACY**

8 **“Subpart 1—Library Media Resources**

9 **“SEC. 2350. PURPOSE.**

10 “The purposes of this subpart are—

11 “(1) to improve literacy skills and academic
12 achievement of students by providing students with
13 increased access to up-to-date school library mate-
14 rials, a well-equipped, technologically advanced
15 school library media center, and well-trained, profes-
16 sionally certified school library media specialists;

17 “(2) to support the acquisition of up-to-date
18 school library media resources for the use of stu-
19 dents, school library media specialists, and teachers
20 in elementary schools and secondary schools;

21 “(3) to provide school library media specialists
22 with the tools and training opportunities necessary
23 for the specialists to facilitate the development and
24 enhancement of the information literacy, information
25 retrieval, and critical thinking skills of students; and

1 “(4)(A) to ensure the effective coordination of
 2 resources for library, technology, and professional
 3 development activities for elementary schools and
 4 secondary schools; and

5 “(B) to ensure collaboration between school li-
 6 brary media specialists, and elementary school and
 7 secondary school teachers and administrators, in de-
 8 veloping curriculum-based instructional activities for
 9 students so that school library media specialists are
 10 partners in the learning process of students.

11 **“SEC. 2351. STATE ALLOTMENTS.**

12 “The Secretary shall allot to each eligible State edu-
 13 cational agency for a fiscal year an amount that bears the
 14 same relation to the amount appropriated under section
 15 2360 and not reserved under section 2359 for the fiscal
 16 year as the amount the State educational agency received
 17 under part A of title I for the preceding fiscal year bears
 18 to the amount all eligible State educational agencies re-
 19 ceived under part A of title I for the preceding fiscal year.

20 **“SEC. 2352. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

21 “To be eligible to receive an allotment under section
 22 2351 for a State for a fiscal year, the State educational
 23 agency shall submit to the Secretary an application at
 24 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-

1 tion as the Secretary shall require. The application shall
 2 contain a description of—

3 “(1) the manner in which the State educational
 4 agency will use the needs assessment described in
 5 section 2355(1) and poverty data to allocate funds
 6 made available through the allotment to the local
 7 educational agencies in the State with the greatest
 8 need for school library media improvement;

9 “(2) the manner in which the State educational
 10 agency will effectively coordinate all Federal and
 11 State funds available for literacy, library, technology,
 12 and professional development activities to assist local
 13 educational agencies, elementary schools, and sec-
 14 ondary schools in—

15 “(A) acquiring up-to-date school library
 16 media resources in all formats, including books
 17 and advanced technology such as Internet con-
 18 nections; and

19 “(B) providing training for school library
 20 media specialists;

21 “(3) the manner in which the State educational
 22 agency will develop standards for the incorporation
 23 of new technologies into the curricula of elementary
 24 schools and secondary schools through school library
 25 media programs to develop and enhance the infor-

1 mation literacy, information retrieval, and critical
 2 thinking skills of students; and

3 “(4) the manner in which the State educational
 4 agency will evaluate the quality and impact of activi-
 5 ties carried out under this subpart by local edu-
 6 cational agencies to make determinations regarding
 7 the need of the agencies for technical assistance and
 8 whether to continue funding the agencies under this
 9 subpart.

10 **“SEC. 2353. STATE RESERVATION.**

11 “A State educational agency that receives an allot-
 12 ment under section 2351 may reserve not more than 3
 13 percent of the funds made available through the allotment
 14 to provide technical assistance, disseminate information
 15 about effective school library media programs, and pay ad-
 16 ministrative costs, relating to this subpart.

17 **“SEC. 2354. LOCAL ALLOCATIONS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency that
 19 receives an allotment under section 2351 for a fiscal year
 20 shall use the funds made available through the allotment
 21 and not reserved under section 2353 to make allocations
 22 to local educational agencies.

23 “(b) AGENCIES.—The State educational agency shall
 24 allocate the funds to the local educational agencies in the
 25 State that have—

1 “(1) the greatest need for school library media
 2 improvement according to the needs assessment de-
 3 scribed in section 2355(1); and

4 “(2) the highest percentages of poverty, as
 5 measured in accordance with section 1113(a)(5).

6 **“SEC. 2355. LOCAL APPLICATION.**

7 “To be eligible to receive an allocation under section
 8 2354 for a fiscal year, a local educational agency shall sub-
 9 mit to the State educational agency an application at such
 10 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
 11 the State educational agency shall require. The application
 12 shall contain—

13 “(1) a needs assessment relating to need for
 14 school library media improvement, based on the age
 15 and condition of school library media resources (in-
 16 cluding book collections), access of school library
 17 media centers to advanced technology, including
 18 Internet connections, and the availability of well-
 19 trained, professionally certified school library media
 20 specialists, in schools served by the local educational
 21 agency;

22 “(2) a description of the manner in which the
 23 local educational agency will use the needs assess-
 24 ment to assist schools with the greatest need for
 25 school library media improvement;

1 “(3) a description of the manner in which the
2 local educational agency will use the funds provided
3 through the allocation to carry out the activities de-
4 scribed in section 2356;

5 “(4) a description of the manner in which the
6 local educational agency will develop and carry out
7 the activities described in section 2356 with the ex-
8 tensive participation of school library media special-
9 ists, elementary school and secondary school teach-
10 ers and administrators, and parents;

11 “(5) a description of the manner in which the
12 local educational agency will effectively coordinate—

13 “(A) funds provided under this subpart
14 with the Federal, State, and local funds re-
15 ceived by the agency for literacy, library, tech-
16 nology, and professional development activities;
17 and

18 “(B) activities carried out under this sub-
19 part with the Federal, State, and local library,
20 technology, and professional development activi-
21 ties carried out by the local educational agency;
22 and

23 “(6) a description of the manner in which the
24 local educational agency will collect and analyze data
25 on the quality and impact of activities carried out

1 under this subpart by schools served by the local
2 educational agency.

3 **“SEC. 2356. LOCAL ACTIVITIES.**

4 “A local educational agency that receives a local allo-
5 cation under section 2354 may use the funds made avail-
6 able through the allocation—

7 “(1) to acquire up-to-date school library media
8 resources, including books;

9 “(2) to acquire and utilize advanced technology,
10 incorporated into the curricula of the schools, to de-
11 velop and enhance the information literacy, informa-
12 tion retrieval, and critical thinking skills of students;

13 “(3) to acquire and utilize advanced technology,
14 including Internet links, to facilitate resource-shar-
15 ing among schools and school library media centers,
16 and public and academic libraries, where possible;

17 “(4) to provide professional development oppor-
18 tunities for school library media specialists; and

19 “(5) to foster increased collaboration between
20 school library media specialists and elementary
21 school and secondary school teachers and adminis-
22 trators.

1 **“SEC. 2357. ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTINUATION OF**
 2 **FUNDS.**

3 “Each local educational agency that receives funding
 4 under this subpart for a fiscal year shall be eligible to con-
 5 tinue to receive the funding—

6 “(1) for each of the 2 following fiscal years; and

7 “(2) for each fiscal year subsequent to the 2
 8 following fiscal years, if the local educational agency
 9 demonstrates that the agency has increased—

10 “(A) the availability of, and the access of
 11 students, school library media specialists, and
 12 elementary school and secondary school teach-
 13 ers to, up-to-date school library media re-
 14 sources, including books and advanced tech-
 15 nology, in elementary schools and secondary
 16 schools served by the local educational agency;

17 “(B) the number of well-trained, profes-
 18 sionally certified school library media specialists
 19 in those schools; and

20 “(C) collaboration between school library
 21 media specialists and elementary school and
 22 secondary school teachers and administrators
 23 for those schools.

24 **“SEC. 2358. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**

25 “Funds made available under this subpart shall be
 26 used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State,

1 and local funds expended to carry out activities relating
 2 to library, technology, or professional development activi-
 3 ties.

4 **“SEC. 2359. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

5 “The Secretary shall reserve not more than 3 percent
 6 of the amount appropriated under section 2360 for a fiscal
 7 year—

8 “(1) for an annual, independent, national eval-
 9 uation of the activities assisted under this subpart,
 10 to be conducted not later than 3 years after the date
 11 of enactment of this subpart; and

12 “(2) to broadly disseminate information to help
 13 States, local educational agencies, school library
 14 media specialists, and elementary school and sec-
 15 ondary school teachers and administrators learn
 16 about effective school library media programs.

17 **“SEC. 2360. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 19 this subpart \$475,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such
 20 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003
 21 through 2006.

22 **“Subpart 2—School Library Access Program**

23 **“SEC. 2361. PROGRAM.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
 25 to local educational agencies to provide students with ac-

1 cess to libraries in elementary schools and secondary
2 schools during non-school hours, including the hours be-
3 fore and after school, weekends, and summer vacation pe-
4 riods.

5 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
6 grant under subsection (a), a local educational agency
7 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
8 in such manner, and containing such information as the
9 Secretary may require.

10 “(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection
11 (a), the Secretary shall give priority to local educational
12 agencies that demonstrate, in applications submitted
13 under subsection (b), that the agencies—

14 “(1) seek to provide activities that will increase
15 literacy skills and student achievement;

16 “(2) have effectively coordinated services and
17 funding with entities involved in other Federal,
18 State, and local efforts, to provide programs and ac-
19 tivities for students during the non-school hours de-
20 scribed in subsection (a); and

21 “(3) have a high level of community support.

22 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart

- 1 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such sums as may
- 2 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2006.”.

