

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 617

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve student and teacher performance and access to education in the critically challenged Lower Mississippi Delta region.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2001

Mr. COCHRAN 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 improve student and teacher performance and access to education in the critically challenged Lower Mississippi Delta region.

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. LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA EDUCATION AC-**
4 **CESS AND IMPROVEMENT.**

5 Title XIII of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8601 et seq.) is amended
7 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“Part E—Lower Mississippi Delta Education Access**
 2 **and Improvement**

3 **“SEC. 13501. SHORT TITLE.**

4 “This part may be cited as the “Lower Mississippi
 5 Delta Education Access and Improvement Act”.

6 **“SEC. 13502. DEFINITIONS.**

7 “In this part:

8 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
 9 ble institution’ means an institution of higher
 10 education—

11 “(A) that has a school or college of edu-
 12 cation located in the Lower Mississippi Delta;
 13 and

14 “(B) that has an established, working
 15 partnership or consortium with one or more
 16 local educational agencies and nonprofit and
 17 community organizations, with the purpose of
 18 such partnership or consortium being the im-
 19 provement of education in the Lower Mis-
 20 sissippi Delta.

21 “(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
 22 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
 23 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
 24 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

25 “(3) LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA.—The term
 26 ‘Lower Mississippi Delta’ means those counties des-

1 ignated as being part of the Delta Regional Author-
 2 ity jurisdiction in the States of Mississippi, Arkan-
 3 sas, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

4 “(4) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPU-
 5 LATION.—The term ‘medically underserved popu-
 6 lation’ has the meaning given the term in section
 7 330(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42
 8 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)).

9 **“SEC. 13503. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
 11 award grants to eligible institutions to allow such eligible
 12 institutions to carry out the activities described in section
 13 13506.

14 “(b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may award not
 15 fewer than 1 or more than 4 grants under this part in
 16 each fiscal year.

17 “(c) PERIOD.—Grants under this part may be award-
 18 ed for periods of up to 5 years.

19 **“SEC. 13504. APPLICATION.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution desiring
 21 a grant under this part shall submit an application to the
 22 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
 23 by such information as the Secretary may require.

24 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under
 25 subsection (a) shall contain a description of the activities

1 that the eligible institution desires to carry out using
 2 funds made available under this part, including a descrip-
 3 tion of the specific population to be served by such activi-
 4 ties.

5 **“SEC. 13505. PRIORITY.**

6 “In awarding grants under this part, the Secretary
 7 shall give priority to applications describing proposed
 8 projects in counties—

9 “(1) that possess no single incorporated municipi-
 10 pality having a population of more than 75,000 peo-
 11 ple;

12 “(2) in which the local school districts serve
 13 populations of which more than 50 percent of all
 14 students are eligible for free or reduced priced
 15 lunches; and

16 “(3) in which more than 50 percent of the pop-
 17 ulation is medically underserved.

18 **“SEC. 13506. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution receiv-
 20 ing a grant under this part shall use amounts received
 21 under the grant for activities that focus on research, devel-
 22 opment, and dissemination of programs, plans or dem-
 23 onstration projects designed to improve the following:

24 “(1) School-wide performance.

25 “(2) Teacher and administrator training.

1 “(3) Teacher retention.

2 “(4) Parent and mentor education.

3 “(5) Assessment.

4 “(6) Cultural based education and regional
5 identity building.

6 “(7) Workforce.

7 “(8) Family literacy.

8 “(9) Preschool learning readiness.

9 “(10) Birth to kindergarten components of
10 early preventative health care, educational interven-
11 tion, and immunization delivery.

12 “(b) LIMITATION.—Grants awarded under this part
13 shall be used for projects only in the predominately rural
14 and agriculture-centered counties and communities of the
15 Lower Mississippi Delta.

16 **“SEC. 13507. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this part \$18,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such
19 sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding
20 fiscal years.”.

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