

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1170

To provide demonstration grants to local educational agencies to enable the agencies to extend the length of the school year.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 27, 1999

Mr. TORRICELLI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To provide demonstration grants to local educational agencies to enable the agencies to extend the length of the school year.

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. SCHOOL YEAR EXTENSION DEMONSTRATION**  
4               **GRANTS.**

5       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6               (1) the length of the academic year at most ele-  
7       mentary and secondary schools in the United States  
8       consists of approximately 175 to 180 academic days,  
9       while the length of the academic years at elementary  
10      and secondary schools in a majority of the other in-

1 industrialized countries consists of approximately 190  
2 to 240 academic days;

3 (2) eighth-grade students from the United  
4 States have scored lower, on average, in mathe-  
5 matics than students in Japan, France, and Canada;

6 (3) various studies indicate that extending the  
7 length of the academic year at elementary and sec-  
8 ondary schools results in a significant increase in ac-  
9 tual student learning time, even when much of the  
10 time in the extended portion of the academic year is  
11 used for increased teacher training and increased  
12 parent-teacher interaction;

13 (4) in the final 4 years of schooling, students  
14 in schools in the United States are required to spend  
15 a total of 1,460 hours on core academic subjects,  
16 which is less than half of the 3,528 hours so re-  
17 quired in Germany, the 3,280 hours so required in  
18 France, and the 3,170 hours so required in Japan;

19 (5) American students' lack of formal schooling  
20 is not counterbalanced with more homework as only  
21 29 percent of American students report spending at  
22 least 2 hours on homework per day compared to half  
23 of all European students;

24 (6) extending the length of the academic year  
25 at elementary and secondary schools will lessen the

1        need for review, at the beginning of an academic  
 2        year, of course material covered in the previous aca-  
 3        demic year; and

4            (7) in 1994, the Commission on Time and  
 5        Learning recommended that school districts keep  
 6        schools open longer to meet the needs of children  
 7        and communities.

8        (b) DEMONSTRATION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

9            (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education,  
 10        from amounts appropriated under subsection (d) for  
 11        a fiscal year, shall award demonstration grants to  
 12        local educational agencies to—

13            (A) enable the local educational agencies to  
 14        extend the length of the school year;

15            (B) study the feasibility of an effective  
 16        method for extending learning time within or  
 17        beyond the school day or year, including con-  
 18        sultation with other schools or local educational  
 19        agencies that have designed or implemented ex-  
 20        tended learning time programs;

21            (C) conduct outreach to and consult with  
 22        community members, including parents, stu-  
 23        dents, and other stakeholders, such as tribal  
 24        leaders, to develop a plan to extend learning

1           time within or beyond the school day or year;  
2           and

3           (D) research, develop, and implement  
4           strategies, including changes in curriculum and  
5           instruction, for maximizing the quality and per-  
6           centage of common core learning time in the  
7           school day and extending learning time during  
8           or beyond the school day or year.

9           (2) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term  
10          “common core learning time” means high-quality,  
11          engaging instruction in challenging content in the  
12          core academic subjects of English, mathematics,  
13          science, foreign languages, civics and government,  
14          economics, arts, history, and geography.

15          (c) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency desir-  
16          ing a grant under this section shall submit an application  
17          to the Secretary of Education at such time, in such man-  
18          ner, and accompanied by such information as the Sec-  
19          retary may require. Each application shall describe—

20               (1) the activities for which assistance is sought;

21               (2) any study or other information-gathering  
22          project for which funds will be used;

23               (3) the strategies and methods the applicant  
24          will use to enrich and extend learning time for all  
25          students and to maximize the percentage of common

1 core learning time in the school day, such as block  
2 scheduling, team teaching, longer school days or  
3 years, and extending learning time through new dis-  
4 tance-learning technologies.

5 (4) the strategies and methods the applicant  
6 will use, including changes in curriculum and in-  
7 struction, to challenge and engage students and to  
8 maximize the productiveness of common core learn-  
9 ing time, as well as the total time students spend in  
10 school and in school-related enrichment activities;

11 (5) the strategies and methods the applicant in-  
12 tends to employ to provide continuing financial sup-  
13 port for the implementation of any extended school  
14 day or school year;

15 (6) with respect to any application seeking as-  
16 sistance for activities described in subsection  
17 (b)(1)(A), a description of any feasibility or other  
18 studies demonstrating the sustainability of a longer  
19 school year;

20 (7) the extent of involvement of teachers and  
21 other school personnel in investigating, designing,  
22 implementing and sustaining the activities assisted  
23 under this section;

24 (8) the process to be used for involving parents  
25 and other stakeholders in the development and im-

1       plementation of the activities assistance under this  
2       section;

3           (9) any cooperation or collaboration among  
4       public housing authorities, libraries, businesses, mu-  
5       seums, community-based organizations, and other  
6       community groups and organizations to extend en-  
7       gaging, high-quality, standards-based learning time  
8       outside of the school day or year, at the school or  
9       at some other site;

10          (10) the training and professional development  
11       activities that will be offered to teachers and others  
12       involved in the activities assisted under this section;

13          (11) the goals and objectives of the activities  
14       assisted under this section, including a description of  
15       how such activities will assist all students to reach  
16       State standards;

17          (12) the methods by which the applicant will  
18       assess progress in meeting such goals and objectives;  
19       and

20          (13) how the applicant will use funds provided  
21       under this section in coordination with funds pro-  
22       vided under other Federal laws.

23       (d) DURATION.—A grant under this section shall be  
24       awarded for a period of 3 years.

25       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
2           appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000  
3           for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

4           (2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Edu-  
5           cation shall use not less than 70 percent of the  
6           amount appropriated for each fiscal year under  
7           paragraph (1) to award grants to applicants that  
8           want to extend the school year.

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