#### 112TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# S. 1464

To enable States to implement integrated statewide education longitudinal data systems.

### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

August 1, 2011

Mr. Blumenthal (for himself and Mr. Brown of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

# A BILL

To enable States to implement integrated statewide education longitudinal data systems.

- 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 "Measuring and Evalu-
- 5 ating Trends for Reliability, Integrity, and Continued Suc-
- 6 cess (METRICS) Act of 2011" or the "METRICS Act".
- 7 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
- 8 In this Act:
- 9 (1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms "elemen-
- tary school", "local educational agency", "secondary

- school", "Secretary", and "State educational agency" have the meanings given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).
  - (2) ALIGNED STATEWIDE EDUCATION LONGITU-DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.—The term "aligned statewide education longitudinal data systems" means 1 or more statewide data systems that house and link the longitudinal data of individual students, including such students' early childhood, elementary school, secondary school, postsecondary education, and workforce data.
    - (3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL ENTITY.—The term "eligible local entity" means—
      - (A) a high-need local educational agency;
      - (B) a consortium of high-need local educational agencies; or
      - (C) a high-need local educational agency or a consortium of high-need local educational agencies and an external partner.
    - (4) ELIGIBLE STATE ENTITY.—The term "eligible State entity" means a State educational agency, which may partner with another public State agency, such as a State higher education agency, an early childhood agency, a State workforce agency, or a

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- 1 multi-agency State group (such as a preschool 2 through grade 20 (P-20) council).
- (5) External partner.—The term "external 3 partner" means an entity, such as a nonprofit orga-4 5 nization, community-based organization, local edu-6 cation fund, service organization, educational service 7 agency, or institution of postsecondary education, 8 that has demonstrated expertise and effectiveness in 9 providing targeted support (such as data analysis, 10 professional development, or the provision of non-11 academic support and integrated student services) to 12 local educational agencies, schools, or students that 13 leads to improved teaching, learning, and outcomes 14 for students, including students who are failing to 15 make sufficient progress to graduate in the standard 16 number of years or students who have dropped out 17 of secondary school.
  - (6) High-need local educational agency"
    means a local educational agency—
  - (A) that serves not less than 10,000 children who are from families with incomes below the poverty line; or

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1	(B) for which not less than 20 percent of
2	the children served by such agency are from
3	families with incomes below the poverty line.
4	(7) POVERTY LINE.—The term "poverty line"
5	means the poverty line (as defined and revised annu-
6	ally in accordance with section 673(2) of the Com-
7	munity Services Block Grant Act) applicable to a
8	family of the size involved.
9	SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE USE OF STATEWIDE LONGITU-
10	DINAL DATA SYSTEMS.
11	(a) Grants Authorized.—From the funds appro-
12	priated under section 8 for a fiscal year, the Secretary
13	shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible State
14	entities to enable such eligible State entities to improve
15	access to, sharing of, and use of education data to improve
16	student outcomes.
17	(b) Duration.—Each grant awarded under this sec-
18	tion shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.
19	(c) Applications.—
20	(1) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each eligible
21	State entity that desires to receive a grant under
22	this section shall submit an application to the Sec-
23	retary at such time, in such manner, and containing
24	such information as the Secretary may reasonably
25	require. Such application shall include the following:

1	(A) A list of State agencies whose coopera-
2	tion will be necessary for the implementation of
3	the grant program, and an assurance of sup-
4	port from—
5	(i) each such agency;
6	(ii) the chief State school officer;
7	(iii) the Governor of the State; and
8	(iv) any other entity that will com-
9	prise the eligible State entity.
10	(B) A description of the State's status re-
11	lating to each priority activity described in sub-
12	section (e)(2), including—
13	(i) a demonstration that the State has
14	implemented the priority activity;
15	(ii) a demonstration that the State
16	has, at the time of the application, received
17	funding from another source and made
18	plans for the implementation of the pri-
19	ority activity; or
20	(iii) a statement that the State has
21	not, at the time of the application, imple-
22	mented, or received funds to implement,
23	the priority activity.
24	(C) For each priority activity whose status
25	is categorized under subparagraph (B)(iii), a

1	description of how the eligible State entity plans
2	to use grant funds under this section to carry
3	out such activity.
4	(D) A description of how the eligible State
5	entity plans to use grant funds to carry out the
6	permissible activities described in subsection
7	(e)(3), if the eligible State entity—
8	(i) categorizes the status of many of
9	the priority activities described in sub-
10	section (e)(2) under clause (i) or (ii) of
11	subparagraph (B); and
12	(ii) anticipates the possibility of hav-
13	ing remaining grant funds after ensuring
14	implementation of each priority activity de-
15	scribed under subsection $(e)(2)$ .
16	(E) A description of how activities funded
17	under the grant program will—
18	(i) support the State's policy and re-
19	form goals;
20	(ii) support alignment between State
21	and local data systems; and
22	(iii) support coordination with, or
23	alignment or advancement of, related ac-
24	tivities that are funded through other Fed-
25	eral programs, including such programs

1	under section 208 of the Educational
2	Technical Assistance Act of 2002 (20
3	U.S.C. 9607), the American Recovery and
4	Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law
5	111–5), the Race to the Top fund under
6	section 14006 of such Act, including the
7	Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge
8	fund under sections 14005, 14006, and
9	14013 of such Act (as amended by, and
10	subject to the requirements of, section
11	1832 of the Full-Year Continuing Appro-
12	priations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112–10)),
13	and the Workforce Data Quality Initiative
14	under section 171(c)(2) of the Workforce
15	Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.
16	2916(c)(2)).
17	(F) A budget that details how grant funds
18	and other funding resources, including State
19	and Federal funding, will be used to carry out
20	the proposed activities.
21	(G) An assurance of the State's long-term
22	financial commitment to—
23	(i) implementing and supporting
24	aligned statewide education longitudinal
25	data systems; and

1	(ii) maintaining such systems after
2	the end of the grant program.
3	(H) A description of the indicators that
4	the eligible State entity will use to determine—
5	(i) if grant funds are being used effec-
6	tively; and
7	(ii) the impact of grant funds on im-
8	proving teaching, learning, and student
9	outcomes.
10	(I) Any other information that the Sec-
11	retary may reasonably require.
12	(2) Form of application.—In establishing
13	the application described under this subsection, the
14	Secretary shall, where practicable, require each eligi-
15	ble State entity to provide a demonstration of the
16	capabilities of any system that the eligible State en-
17	tity is, at the time of the application, using to track
18	data, in lieu of a description of such capabilities.
19	(d) Awarding of Grants.—
20	(1) In General.—In awarding grants under
21	this section, the Secretary shall—
22	(A) use a peer review process, as described
23	in paragraph (2);
24	(B) select applications that demonstrate
25	technical quality, validity, and reliability;

1	(C) promote multi-state collaboration; and
2	(D) ensure that applications protect stu-
3	dent and educator privacy, including through
4	compliance with the requirements of Federal,
5	State, and local privacy laws (including section
6	444 of the General Education Provisions Act
7	(commonly known as the "Family Educational
8	Rights and Privacy Act of 1974") (20 U.S.C.
9	1232g)).
10	(2) Peer review process.—The Secretary
11	shall award grants under this section through a peer
12	review process that, to the extent practicable, in-
13	cludes—
14	(A) educators;
15	(B) users and consumers of statewide lon-
16	gitudinal data systems, including representa-
17	tives of State educational agencies;
18	(C) individuals with demonstrated tech-
19	nical expertise in data system construction, in-
20	tegration, or implementation; and
21	(D) representatives of business and the
22	workforce.
23	(3) Competitive priorities.—In awarding
24	grants under this section, the Secretary may give
25	priority to eligible State entities that—

1	(A) propose to coordinate efforts with
2	other State educational agencies;
3	(B) propose to coordinate efforts with local
4	educational agencies;
5	(C) fulfill other criteria relating to the pur-
6	poses of this section, as determined by the Sec-
7	retary.
8	(e) Uses of Funds.—
9	(1) In General.—
10	(A) REQUIREMENT RELATING TO PRIORITY
11	ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible State entity shall
12	use grant funds to carry out the priority activi-
13	ties described in paragraph (2), before such en-
14	tity may use any remaining funds to carry out
15	the permissible activities described in paragraph
16	(3).
17	(B) Exception.—An eligible State entity
18	is deemed to satisfy the requirements of para-
19	graph (1) if such entity demonstrates that the
20	State has funding for, and has in place, or has
21	developed and is implementing a plan that will
22	result in the existence of, aligned statewide edu-
23	cation longitudinal data systems and related ac-
24	tivities that meet the requirements of para-
25	graph (2).

1	(2) Priority activities.—An eligible State
2	entity receiving a grant under this section shall use
3	grant funds to carry out the following activities:
4	(A) Implementing aligned statewide edu-
5	cation longitudinal data systems that include
6	the following:
7	(i) With respect to preschool through
8	grade 12 education and postsecondary edu-
9	cation—
10	(I) a unique statewide student
11	identifier that does not permit a stu-
12	dent to be individually identified by
13	users of the system;
14	(II) student-level enrollment, de-
15	mographic, and program participation
16	information;
17	(III) student-level information
18	about the points at which students
19	exit, transfer in, transfer out, drop
20	out, or complete P-16 education pro-
21	grams;
22	(IV) the capacity to communicate
23	with higher education data systems;
24	and

1	(V) a State data audit system as-
2	sessing data quality, validity, and reli-
3	ability.
4	(ii) With respect to preschool through
5	grade 12 education—
6	(I) yearly test records of indi-
7	vidual students with respect to State
8	assessments under section 1111(b)(3)
9	of the Elementary and Secondary
10	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
11	6311(b)(3));
12	(II) information on students not
13	tested by grade and subject;
14	(III) a teacher identifier system
15	with the ability to match teachers to
16	students;
17	(IV) student-level transcript in-
18	formation, including information on
19	courses completed and grades earned;
20	and
21	(V) student-level college readi-
22	ness test scores.
23	(iii) With respect to postsecondary
24	education, data that provide—

1	(I) information regarding the ex-
2	tent to which students transition suc-
3	cessfully from secondary school to
4	postsecondary education, including
5	whether students enroll in remedial
6	coursework; and
7	(II) other information determined
8	necessary to address alignment and
9	adequate preparation for success in
10	postsecondary education.
11	(B) Establishing inter- and intra-agency
12	governance strategies that define policies and
13	procedures for the collection, access, and use of
14	education data.
15	(C) Establishing and implementing com-
16	prehensive policies and procedures to protect
17	the privacy, security, and confidentiality of stu-
18	dent and educator data, including—
19	(i) justifying that data being collected,
20	stored, and shared are necessary, useful,
21	accurate, and valid;
22	(ii) limiting access to personally iden-
23	tifiable information to necessary and ap-
24	propriate individuals;

1	(iii) protecting shared data from inap-
2	propriate use;
3	(iv) implementing a data security
4	framework (including regular and com-
5	prehensive training and professional devel-
6	opment) for the use, dissemination, stor-
7	age, and maintenance of data;
8	(v) providing parental and public no-
9	tice about data collection, information
10	about data policies, and information relat-
11	ing to the accessibility and use of data;
12	(vi) ensuring compliance with the re-
13	quirements of Federal, State and local pri-
14	vacy laws, including section 444 of the
15	General Education Provisions Act (com-
16	monly known as the "Family Educational
17	Rights and Privacy Act of 1974") (20
18	U.S.C. 1232g); and
19	(vii) aligning data policies and proce-
20	dures with best practices for data steward-
21	ship, including best practices identified by
22	the Secretary.
23	(D) Establishing the capacity to link edu-
24	cation data with workforce data.

1	(E) Enabling the matching of the teacher
2	identifier described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(III)
3	with information about certification or licensure
4	and teacher preparation programs, including
5	the development of linkages with pre-service
6	programs that enable the matching of teacher
7	certification and preparation programs to—
8	(i) the postsecondary institutions at
9	which teachers received their training;
10	(ii) job placement;
11	(iii) retention rates; and
12	(iv) teacher impact on student aca-
13	demic achievement.
14	(F) Enabling standardization of education
15	data through the use of openly developed com-
16	mon education data standards.
17	(G) Providing the State with the ability to
18	meet Federal reporting requirements, including
19	reporting requirements under the Elementary
20	and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
21	U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the American Recovery
22	and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law
23	111–5), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
24	nical Education Act of 2006 (20 USC 2301

1 et seq.), and the Individuals with Disabilities 2 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.). 3 (3)PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible 4 State entity receiving a grant under this section may 5 use remaining grant funds, after ensuring the imple-6 mentation of the priority activities described in para-7 graph (2), to carry out activities that— 8 (A) expand the ability of aligned statewide 9 education longitudinal data systems to align 10 data that covers the time a student enters pre-11 school through the time that such student grad-

(B) improve opportunities to access, analyze, communicate about, and use data from aligned statewide education longitudinal data systems; or

time in the workforce;

uates from secondary school or an institution of

postsecondary education, and enters and spends

- (C) build the capacity of teachers, school leaders, parents, students, researchers, external partners, and the public to use longitudinal data for effective decisionmaking.
- 23 (f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made 24 available under this section shall be used to supplement, 25 and not supplant, other State or local funds used for de-

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1	veloping integrated statewide education longitudinal data
2	systems linking early childhood, elementary school, sec-
3	ondary school, postsecondary, or workforce data.
4	SEC. 4. IMPROVING LOCAL USE OF DATA TO IMPROVE STU-
5	DENT OUTCOMES.
6	(a) Grants Authorized.—From the funds appro-
7	priated under section 8 for a fiscal year, the Secretary
8	shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible local
9	entities to enable educators to improve access to, sharing
10	of, and use of education data to improve student out-
11	comes.
12	(b) Duration.—Each grant awarded under this sec-
13	tion shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.
14	(c) Applications.—Each eligible local entity that
15	desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit
16	an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
17	ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may
18	reasonably require. Such application shall include the fol-
19	lowing:
20	(1) A memorandum of understanding between
21	the State educational agency and the eligible local
22	entity, which shall include—
23	(A) a description of the State educational
24	agency's level of participation in the grant:

1	(B) an assurance that the State edu-
2	cational agency agrees to—
3	(i) provide the eligible local entity
4	with—
5	(I) appropriate access to student
6	data from State data systems; and
7	(II) cooperation in efforts to
8	align local educational agency data
9	with data from State data systems;
10	(ii) provide training to the eligible
11	local entity to address the use of data col-
12	lection software, privacy policies, Federal,
13	State, and local privacy laws (including
14	section 444 of the General Education Pro-
15	visions Act (commonly known as the
16	"Family Educational Rights and Privacy
17	Act of 1974") (20 U.S.C. 1232g)), data
18	integrity issues, reporting, planning, and
19	processes;
20	(C) a description of the State educational
21	agency's strategy for the dissemination of infor-
22	mation about the successes and challenges of
23	the grant activities under this section; and
24	(D) a description of how the State will
25	fund the activities described in subparagraph

- 1 (B), including information about any grant
  2 funds that the eligible local entity will give to
  3 the State educational agency to carry out the
  4 activities described in such subparagraph.
  - (2) A description of how the local educational agencies that are part of the eligible local entity, and any educators working for such agencies, submit data to, access, and use existing statewide education longitudinal data systems, at the time of the application.
  - (3) A description of the data systems used by the eligible local entity at the time of the application.
  - (4) A description of how activities funded under the grant will improve local access to, and use of, data that is, at the time of the application, provided by data systems at the local and State level.
  - (5) A description of how the eligible local entity will use funds received under this section to carry out the proposed activities in order to improve teaching, learning, and student outcomes.
  - (6) A mechanism for soliciting the feedback of educators, school leaders, parents, and external partners in developing, revising, and implementing plans and activities under this section.

1	(7) A description of how the eligible local entity
2	will align the use of funds under this section with
3	the technology plan of each local educational agency
4	served under the grant.
5	(8) A description of the indicators that the eli-
6	gible local entity will use to determine—
7	(A) if grant funds are being used effec-
8	tively; and
9	(B) the impact of grant funds on improv-
10	ing teaching, learning, and student outcomes.
11	(9) Such other information as the Secretary
12	may reasonably require.
13	(d) Awarding of Grants.—
14	(1) In general.—In awarding grants under
15	this section, the Secretary shall—
16	(A) use a peer review process, as described
17	in paragraph (2);
18	(B) select applications that demonstrate
19	technical quality, validity, and reliability; and
20	(C) protect student and educator privacy,
21	consistent with the requirements of Federal,
22	State, and local privacy laws (including section
23	444 of the General Education Provisions Act
24	(commonly known as the "Family Educational

1	Rights and Privacy Act of 1974") (20 U.S.C
2	1232g)).
3	(2) Peer review process.—In awarding
4	grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the
5	extent practicable, use a peer review process that—
6	(A) ensures technical quality, validity, and
7	reliability;
8	(B) ensures that applications protect stu-
9	dent and educator privacy, consistent with the
10	requirements of Federal, State, and local pri-
11	vacy laws (including section 444 of the General
12	Education Provisions Act (commonly known as
13	the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
14	of 1974) (20 U.S.C. 1232g)); and
15	(C) includes—
16	(i) educators;
17	(ii) users and consumers of a local
18	educational data systems;
19	(iii) individuals with demonstrated
20	technical expertise in data system con-
21	struction, integration, or implementation
22	and
23	(iv) representatives of business and
24	the workforce.

1 (3) Considerations.—In awarding grants
2 under this section, the Secretary shall ensure, to the
3 greatest extent possible, that grants are awarded to
4 eligible local entities that are diverse in terms of ge5 ography, size, and location within an urban, rural,
6 or suburban area.

### (e) Uses of Funds.—

- (1) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible local entity receiving a grant under this section shall use grant funds to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for using data to improve teaching, learning, and student outcomes. Such plan shall include strategies designed to—
  - (A) provide teachers, school leaders, parents, students, researchers, external partners, and the public with access to student education data in a way that ensures the quality and integrity of data contained in data systems and respects student and educator privacy, including through compliance with the requirements of Federal, State, and local privacy laws (including section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g));
  - (B) regularly analyze and share appropriate student data with educators, counselors,

1	school staff, parents, students, and external
2	partners in a way that ensures the quality and
3	integrity of data contained in data systems and
4	respects student and educator privacy, including
5	through compliance with the requirements of
6	Federal, State, and local privacy laws (including
7	section 444 of the General Education Provi-
8	sions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)); and
9	(C) improve the ability of school leaders
10	to—
11	(i) use student data to guide school
12	improvement efforts; and
13	(ii) support classroom use of data
14	through high-quality training and profes-
15	sional development;
16	(D) improve the ability of teachers to ef-
17	fectively use student data through on-going,
18	sustainable, and high-quality professional devel-
19	opment activities in order to ensure that edu-
20	cators have the capacity to—
21	(i) analyze data and monitor academic
22	outcomes;
23	(ii) modify instructional activities as
24	needed; and
25	(iii) differentiate student instructions.

1	(2) Allowable uses of funds.—An eligible
2	local entity receiving a grant under this section may
3	use grant funds to carry out any of the following ac-
4	tivities:
5	(A) Supplementing statewide longitudinal
6	data systems existing at the time of the applica-
7	tion by improving local data systems through—
8	(i) the collection of local data ele-
9	ments that support decisionmaking about
10	school improvement;
11	(ii) enhancing the ability of educators
12	to manage, analyze, disaggregate, or report
13	student, teacher, and school data; or
14	(iii) standardization through use of
15	openly developed common education data
16	standards.
17	(B) Using new assessment tools that pro-
18	vide timely data to educators, which can be
19	used to identify the learning needs of individual
20	students and guide appropriate, personalized in-
21	structional interventions.
22	(C) Using external partners, central office
23	staff, or data specialists in order to build educa-
24	tor capacity to effectively use data to improve
25	teaching and learning.

1	(D) Analyzing and disseminating best
2	practices, strategies, and approaches regarding
3	pedagogical advancement that will leverage the
4	local educational agency's or State educational
5	agency's data system to enhance teaching and
6	learning, including opportunities for individual-
7	ized instruction.
8	(E) Analyzing data and realigning existing
9	resources to maximize impact on student
10	achievement, including the use of early warning
11	data to target resources.
12	(F) Coordinating activities with other local
13	agencies providing services to students.
14	(G) Coordinating activities with educator
15	preparation programs in order to build edu-
16	cators' capacity to use data.
17	SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE
18	DATA USE.
19	From the funds appropriated under section 8 for a
20	fiscal year, the Secretary may carry out the following na-
21	tional activities:
22	(1) Providing technical and policy assistance to
23	grantees and non-grantees in order to facilitate im-
24	plementation, and improve the quality of, student

longitudinal data systems, including technical assist-

- ance to ensure the protection of personally identifiable information.
- (2) Identifying or promoting activities that improve data coordination, quality, and use at the national, State, and local levels (including activities that improve the coordination, quality, and use of education data for Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education).
  - (3) Implementing innovative strategies to advance the use of data.
- 12 (4) Conducting research on emerging trends 13 and challenges relating to the collection and use of 14 education data.
  - (5) Awarding prizes (consistent with section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719)).
- 18 (6) Providing funding to support the innovative 19 use of data for pilot programs, in order to identify 20 and promote models of effective data use in emerg-21 ing areas.

### 22 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

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Not later than 3 years after the Secretary awards a 24 grant under this Act, and annually thereafter, the Sec-25 retary shall make publicly available a report on the imple-

1	mentation, actual costs, and effectiveness of the activities
2	carried out through grants under this Act, including ef-
3	forts to protect student and educator privacy.
4	SEC. 7. TRANSPARENCY.
5	(a) Reporting Requirements.—
6	(1) In general.—Not later than 1 year after
7	the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8	shall make publicly available a comprehensive and
9	searchable description of all reporting requirements
10	of the Department that apply to State educational
11	agencies, local educational agencies, or schools. Such
12	description shall include, for each reporting require-
13	ment, the following information:
14	(A) The definition of the required data ele-
15	ment or indicator.
16	(B) The purpose of the particular data col-
17	lection.
18	(C) The legislative or regulatory source of
19	the reporting requirement.
20	(D) The level of data (such as the State
21	educational agency, local educational agency, in-
22	stitution of postsecondary education, or school).
23	(E) The mechanism of data collection.

1	(F) Information about whether data relat-
2	ing to the reporting requirement is publicly
3	available.
4	(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update the
5	description required under subsection (a) annually.
6	(b) Assurance.—The Secretary shall ensure that if
7	a new reporting requirement becomes effective, or if a re-
8	porting requirement is changed, on or after the date of
9	enactment of this Act, each State shall have not less than
10	90 days to comply with such requirement.

## 11 SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

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