

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2119

To amend the Head Start Act to authorize block grants to States for prekindergarten education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2014

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

A BILL

To amend the Head Start Act to authorize block grants to States for prekindergarten education.

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 “Head Start Improve-
5 ment Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. HEAD START BLOCK GRANTS.**

7 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in section 640, by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

1 “(p) Beginning on October 1 of the first fiscal year
 2 following the date of enactment of the Head Start Im-
 3 provement Act of 2014, the Secretary shall not allocate,
 4 reserve, or otherwise provide funds pursuant to this sec-
 5 tion.”; and

6 (2) by inserting after section 640 the following:

7 **“SEC. 640A. BLOCK GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE GRANTEES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
 9 vision of this subchapter, beginning on October 1 of the
 10 first fiscal year following the date of enactment of the
 11 Head Start Improvement Act of 2014, from the amounts
 12 appropriated to carry out this subchapter under section
 13 639 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award grants to
 14 eligible grantees in accordance with this section.

15 “(b) ALLOTMENTS.—

16 “(1) ELIGIBLE GRANTEE DEFINED.—In this
 17 section, the term ‘eligible grantee’ means each of the
 18 50 States of the United States, the District of Co-
 19 lumbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the
 20 United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American
 21 Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
 22 Islands, the Republic of Palau, and each of the fed-
 23 erally recognized Indian tribes.

24 “(2) FORMULA.—The Secretary shall allot the
 25 amount appropriated under section 639 for a fiscal

1 year among the eligible grantees in proportion to the
2 number of children, aged 5 and younger, who reside
3 within the eligible grantee and are from families
4 with incomes below 130 percent of the poverty line
5 for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory
6 data are available, compared to the number of such
7 children who reside in all such eligible grantees for
8 that fiscal year.

9 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible grantee that re-
11 ceives a grant under this section shall use 100 per-
12 cent of the grant funds—

13 “(A) for prekindergarten education pro-
14 grams in the eligible grantee;

15 “(B) for the administration of the pro-
16 grams described in subparagraph (A); and

17 “(C) to provide direct technical assistance,
18 oversight, monitoring, research, and training
19 with respect to the programs described in sub-
20 paragraph (A).

21 “(2) CERTIFICATION.—The Governor, or other
22 chief executive, of each eligible grantee that receives
23 a grant under this section shall certify that all grant
24 funds received under this section will be used to di-
25 rectly or indirectly provide comprehensive education

1 and related services to low-income children and their
2 families.

3 “(3) ELIGIBLE GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES.—
4 An eligible grantee that receives a grant under this
5 section shall—

6 “(A) award subgrants to eligible entities
7 (as defined by the eligible grantee) to enable
8 such entities to provide prekindergarten edu-
9 cation programs in the eligible grantee;

10 “(B) establish rules and standards for the
11 entities awarded subgrants under subparagraph
12 (A); and

13 “(C) monitor compliance by entities award-
14 ed subgrants under subparagraph (A).

15 “(4) FLEXIBILITY.—Subject to the require-
16 ments of this section, an eligible grantee that re-
17 ceives a grant under this section shall have full flexi-
18 bility to use grant funds to finance a prekind-
19 garten education provider, service, or program, in-
20 cluding to establish a portable voucher system.

21 “(5) MEMBERS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED
22 INDIAN TRIBES.—A member of a federally recog-
23 nized Indian tribe who is eligible to receive services
24 pursuant to a program funded under this section
25 may elect to receive such services from any eligible

1 entity in the eligible grantee in which the member
2 resides.

3 “(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An eligible grantee that re-
4 ceives a grant under this section shall provide matching
5 funds from non-Federal sources equal to 20 percent of the
6 amount of the grant to carry out the activities described
7 in this section.”.

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