

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2173

To amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend State court funding for child welfare, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend State court funding for child welfare, 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 “Continuation of Useful
5 Resources to States Act” or “COURTS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF STATE COURT FUNDING FOR CHILD**
7 **WELFARE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 436(a) of the Social Secu-
9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 629f) is amended by striking “2012
10 through 2016” and inserting “2018 through 2022”.

1 (b) PROGRAM CHANGES.—Section 438 of such Act
 2 (42 U.S.C. 629h) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
 6 “in a timely and complete manner” before
 7 “, as set forth”; and

8 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
 9 the semicolon and inserting “, including by
 10 training judges, attorneys, and other legal
 11 personnel.”; and

12 (B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) by striking paragraph (2);

15 (B) by striking all that precedes “be eligi-
 16 ble to receive” and inserting the following:

17 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—In order to”; and

18 (C) in the matter preceding paragraph
 19 (2)—

20 (i) by moving the matter 2 ems to the
 21 left;

22 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

23 (I) by striking “(A) in the case of
 24 a grant for the purpose described in

1 subsection (a)(3),” and inserting
 2 “(1)”; and

3 (II) by inserting “use not less
 4 than 30 percent of grant funds to”
 5 before “collaborate”;

6 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 7 “(B) in the case of a grant for the purpose
 8 described in subsection (a)(4),” and insert-
 9 ing “(2)”; and

10 (iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking
 11 “(C) in the case of a grant for the purpose
 12 described in subsection (a),” and inserting
 13 “(3)”;

14 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
 15 following:

16 “(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts reserved
 18 under sections 436(b)(2) and 437(b)(2) for a fiscal
 19 year, each highest State court that has an applica-
 20 tion approved under this section for the fiscal year
 21 shall be entitled to payment of an amount equal to
 22 the sum of—

23 “(A) \$255,000; and

24 “(B) the amount described in paragraph
 25 (2) with respect to the court and the fiscal year.

1 “(2) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—The amount de-
 2 scribed in this paragraph with respect to a court and
 3 a fiscal year is the amount that bears the same ratio
 4 to the total of the amounts reserved under sections
 5 436(b)(2) and 437(b)(2) for grants under this sec-
 6 tion for the fiscal year (after applying paragraphs
 7 (1)(A) and (3) of this subsection) as the number of
 8 individuals in the State in which the court is located
 9 who have not attained 21 years of age bears to the
 10 total number of such individuals in all States with
 11 a highest State court that has an approved applica-
 12 tion under this section for the fiscal year.

13 “(3) INDIAN TRIBES.—From the amounts re-
 14 served under section 436(b)(2) for a fiscal year, the
 15 Secretary shall, before applying paragraph (1) of
 16 this subsection, allocate \$1,000,000 for grants to be
 17 awarded on a competitive basis among the highest
 18 courts of Indian tribes or tribal consortia that—

19 “(A) are operating a program under part
 20 E, in accordance with section 479B;

21 “(B) are seeking to operate a program
 22 under part E and have received an implementa-
 23 tion grant under section 476; or

24 “(C) have a court responsible for pro-
 25 ceedings related to foster care or adoption.”;

1 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2012 through
2 2016” and inserting “2018 through 2022”; and

3 (5) by striking subsection (e).

4 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2017.

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