

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4285

To establish a pilot program through which the Institute of Museum and Library Services shall allocate funds to States for the provision of internet-connected devices to libraries.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2020

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a pilot program through which the Institute of Museum and Library Services shall allocate funds to States for the provision of internet-connected devices to libraries.

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 Hotspots and Online
5 Technology and Services Procurement for our Tribes and
6 States Act” or the “HOTSPOTS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERNET HOTSPOT PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the terms “library”,
 3 “State”, and “State library administrative agency” have
 4 the meanings given those terms in section 213 of the Mu-
 5 seum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9122).

6 (b) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

7 (1) GRANTS TO STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

8 Not later than 21 days after the date of enactment
 9 of this Act, the Director of the Institute of Museum
 10 and Library Services shall establish a 2-year pilot
 11 program, through which the Director shall—

12 (A) reserve 2.5 percent of the amounts ap-
 13 propriated to carry out this section to make
 14 grants to Indian Tribes and to organizations
 15 that primarily serve and represent Native Ha-
 16 waiians (as the term is defined in section 6207
 17 of the Native Hawaiian Education Act) to en-
 18 able such tribes and organizations to carry out
 19 the activities described in subsection (c); and

20 (B) allocate grant funds to States in ac-
 21 cordance with paragraph (2) to enable States,
 22 through the State library administrative agency,
 23 as appropriate, to carry out the activities de-
 24 scribed in subsection (c).

25 (2) ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.—

26 (A) MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of
2 this subsection, the minimum allotment for
3 each State shall be \$1,600,000, except that
4 the minimum allotment shall be \$160,000
5 in the case of the United States Virgin Is-
6 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Com-
7 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
8 lands, the Republic of the Marshall Is-
9 lands, the Federated States of Micronesia,
10 and the Republic of Palau.

11 (ii) RATABLE REDUCTION.—Notwith-
12 standing clause (i), if the sum appro-
13 priated to carry out this section is insuffi-
14 cient to fully satisfy the requirement of
15 clause (i), each of the minimum allotments
16 under such clause shall be reduced ratably.

17 (B) REMAINDER.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—From the remain-
19 der of any sums not reserved or allotted
20 under subparagraph (A), the Director shall
21 award grants to each State in an amount
22 that bears the same relation to such re-
23 mainder as the population of the State
24 bears to the population of all States.

1 (ii) DATA.—The population of each
 2 State and of all the States shall be deter-
 3 mined by the Director on the basis of the
 4 most recent data available from the Bu-
 5 reau of the Census.

6 (3) GRANTS FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—An Indian
 7 tribe that is eligible for support under section 261
 8 of the Library Services and Technology Act (20
 9 U.S.C. 9161) may designate a tribal library or tribal
 10 library consortium as a library or consortium that is
 11 eligible for grant funds under this section, without
 12 regard to whether the library or library consortium
 13 is eligible for assistance from a State Library Ad-
 14 ministrative Agency under the Library Services and
 15 Technology Act (20 U.S.C. 9121 et seq.), if the li-
 16 brary or library consortium is eligible for support
 17 from an Indian tribe under such section 261.

18 (c) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Each State, Indian
 19 Tribe, or other entity receiving a grant, contract, or coop-
 20 erative agreement under this section shall use funding
 21 under this section to—

22 (1) expand digital network access by purchasing
 23 and distributing internet-connected devices, such as
 24 hotspots, to libraries in low-income and rural areas
 25 so that those libraries can allow individuals to bor-

1 row internet-connected devices for home use and in-
2 stall or upgrade public wi-fi access points for use on
3 or near library grounds;

4 (2) provide libraries with funds to pay the other
5 expenses associated with such devices and services,
6 such as processing, training, associated connectivity,
7 hardware and support, and other necessary expenses
8 related to the retention of these devices and provi-
9 sion of these services; and

10 (3) encourage existing and new partnerships be-
11 tween State and local governments, libraries, non-
12 profit entities, agencies including the Federal Com-
13 munications Commission, and telecommunication,
14 broadband, and internet service providers to coordi-
15 nate the distribution of hotspots and other internet-
16 connected devices and services.

17 (d) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, OR COOPERATIVE AGREE-
18 MENTS.—From amounts appropriated to carry out this
19 section, \$1,000,000 shall be made available for the Direc-
20 tor of the Institute of Museum and Library Services for
21 grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements with Federal
22 agencies, public and private organizations, and other enti-
23 ties determined to be eligible by the Director to enable
24 those agencies, organizations, and entities to carry out the
25 activities described in subsection (c).

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$160,000,000.

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