

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1999

To require the Secretary of Education to award grants to local governments that have experienced at least a 15 percent decrease in property tax revenues to fund certain elementary and secondary school education programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2009

Mr. HALL of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to award grants to local governments that have experienced at least a 15 percent decrease in property tax revenues to fund certain elementary and secondary school education programs.

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 “Temporary Recession
5 Aid for Schools and Taxpayers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERN-**
2 **MENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
4 under subsection (h), the Secretary of Education shall
5 award grants to eligible local governments to fund elemen-
6 tary and secondary school education programs in accord-
7 ance with subsection (g).

8 (b) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—An eligible local govern-
9 ment may receive—

10 (1) 1 grant under this Act because it has expe-
11 rienced at least a 15 percent decrease in property
12 tax revenues from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year
13 2009; and

14 (2) 1 grant under this Act because it has expe-
15 rienced at least a 15 percent decrease in property
16 tax revenues from fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year
17 2010.

18 (c) GRANT DURATION.—A grant under this Act shall
19 be awarded in accordance with the amounts described in
20 subsection (d) for a period of not longer than 3 years.

21 (d) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a
23 grant awarded to an eligible local government under
24 this Act shall not exceed an amount that is equal
25 to—

1 (A) in the first year of the grant period,
2 70 percent of the difference in the amount of
3 property tax revenues collected by such local
4 government from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year
5 2009 or from fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year
6 2010, as applicable;

7 (B) in the second year of the grant period,
8 50 percent of such difference; and

9 (C) in the third year of the grant period,
10 25 percent of such difference.

11 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant awarded
12 under this Act shall not exceed a total of
13 \$40,000,000 in a 3-year grant period.

14 (e) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—To qualify to re-
15 ceive a grant under this Act, an eligible local government
16 shall submit an application, not later than 2 months after
17 the end of fiscal year 2009 or fiscal year 2010, in such
18 manner and containing such information as the Secretary
19 of Education may require, which shall include—

20 (1) the difference and the percentage of de-
21 crease in the amount of property tax revenues col-
22 lected by such local government from fiscal year
23 2008 to fiscal year 2009 or from fiscal year 2009
24 to fiscal year 2010, as applicable; and

1 (2) how such local government plans to operate
2 without the funds it receives under this Act after the
3 3-year grant period, including any plans to increase
4 property taxes or reduce elementary and secondary
5 school budgets.

6 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this Act,
7 the Secretary of Education shall give priority to eligible
8 local governments—

9 (1) that have experienced the largest amount of
10 decrease in property tax revenues collected from fis-
11 cal year 2008 to fiscal year 2009 or from fiscal year
12 2009 to fiscal year 2010, as applicable, in proportion
13 to the tax base of such local government, relative to
14 the total tax base of all eligible local governments;
15 and

16 (2) where the decrease in property tax revenues
17 collected from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2009
18 or from fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year 2010, as ap-
19 plicable, is attributable to the permanent or tem-
20 porary shutdown or closure of an establishment of a
21 large employer (as determined by the Secretary) or
22 several small employers (as determined by the Sec-
23 retary).

24 (g) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible local
25 government receiving a grant under this Act shall only use

1 the grant funds to fund elementary and secondary school
2 education programs, including—

3 (1) programs for construction, maintenance, re-
4 habilitation, or repair of a school facility;

5 (2) programs to maintain the salaries of teach-
6 ers or other faculty; or

7 (3) school lunch programs or other nutrition
8 programs that are funded by such local government.

9 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each
11 of fiscal years 2010 through 2013.

12 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

13 (1) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term
14 “eligible local government” means a city, county,
15 town, parish, village, or other general-purpose polit-
16 ical subdivision of a State that has the authority to
17 levy real property taxes and—

18 (A) has experienced at least a 15 percent
19 decrease in property tax revenues from fiscal
20 year 2008 to fiscal year 2009 or from fiscal
21 year 2009 to fiscal year 2010; and

22 (B) spend such tax funds on elementary
23 and secondary education programs within the
24 jurisdiction of such local government.

1 (2) FISCAL YEAR.—The term “fiscal year” has
2 the meaning given such term under applicable State
3 or local law.

4 (3) PROPERTY TAX REVENUES.—The term
5 “property tax revenues” means the revenues gen-
6 erated by the levying of real property taxes by a
7 local government based on the assessment of the
8 value of real property located within the jurisdiction
9 of such local government.

10 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
11 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
12 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

13 (5) TAX BASE.—The term “tax base” means
14 the assessment by a local government of the total
15 value of taxable real property located within the ju-
16 risdiction of such local government.

17 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

18 This Act shall take effect not later than November
19 1, 2009.

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