

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7758

To provide for assistance to rural health, education, and public safety facilities affected by the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2020

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself and Mr. HAGEDORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide for assistance to rural health, education, and public safety facilities affected by the COVID–19 pandemic, 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 “Assistance for Rural
5 Health, Safety and Educational Facilities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL HEATH, SAFETY AND EDU-**
7 **CATIONAL FACILITIES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (in
9 this section referred to as the “Secretary”) may—

1 (1) make a grant to any hospital, health facil-
2 ity, public safety facility, or education facility that is
3 eligible for assistance under section 306(a)(1) or
4 310B(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
5 opment Act and is located in a rural area (within
6 the meaning of section 343(a)(13)(C) of such Act,
7 subject to sections 343(a)(13)(H) and 343(a)(13)(I)
8 of such Act);

9 (2) provide a zero interest loan or a 1 percent
10 loan to, forgive principal or interest or modify any
11 term or condition of an outstanding loan made to,
12 or refinance part or all of any other loan if the pur-
13 pose of the loan or loan part is an eligible purpose
14 under such section 306(a)(1) to any hospital, health
15 facility, public safety facility, or education facility
16 that is eligible for a direct loan under such section
17 306(a)(1); and

18 (3) reduce or eliminate any fee that would oth-
19 erwise be required to be paid under such section
20 306(a)(1) or 310B(g) with respect to a loan guar-
21 antee provided to any hospital, health facility, public
22 safety facility, or education facility, on the condition
23 that the borrower receives the benefit resulting from
24 the reduction or elimination of the fee.

1 (b) LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may pro-
2 vide assistance to an entity under this section as the Sec-
3 retary determines is necessary to—

4 (1) ensure that the entity has the necessary re-
5 sources to maintain public health, safety, or order;

6 (2) address financial hardships of the entity
7 due to the COVID–19 public health emergency; and

8 (3) promote the financial stability of the entity.

9 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity to which assistance
10 is provided under this section may use the assistance—

11 (1) for any purpose for which the entity is eligi-
12 ble for assistance under such section 306(a)(1) or
13 310B; or

14 (2) for any eligible direct operational expenses
15 of the entity, as determined by the Secretary.

16 (d) NOTICE.—The Secretary may disburse funds
17 under this section pursuant to 1 or more notices in the
18 Federal Register, without regard to publication of any
19 final rulemaking.

20 (e) APPROPRIATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any money in the
22 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appro-
23 priated, there are appropriated \$4,000,000,000 to
24 carry out this section.

1 (2) RESERVATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO HOS-
2 PITALS AND HEALTH FACILITIES.—The Secretary
3 shall reserve \$2,000,000,000 of the amount appro-
4 priated by paragraph (1) for assistance to hospitals
5 and health facilities eligible for assistance under this
6 section.

7 (3) RESERVATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
8 PENSES.—The Secretary shall reserve 3 percent of
9 the amount appropriated by paragraph (1) for ad-
10 ministrative expenses incurred in carrying out this
11 section.

12 (4) AVAILABILITY.—The amount appropriated
13 in paragraph (1) shall remain available through De-
14 cember 31, 2021.

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