

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7920

To provide grants and direct funding for promotion of tourism and healthy and safe travel practices in areas recovering from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19), and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2020

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide grants and direct funding for promotion of tourism and healthy and safe travel practices in areas recovering from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19), 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 “Healthy and Safe
5 Travel Promotion Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR PROMOTING TOURISM AND HEALTHY**
2 **TRAVEL.**

3 Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-
4 ment Act of 1965 is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 **“SEC. 219. TOURISM AND HEALTHY TRAVEL PROMOTION.**

7 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall provide
8 grants to eligible entities to assist with economic recovery
9 in communities affected by declines in travel and tourism
10 as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19).

11 “(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—An entity eligible to re-
12 ceive grants under this section shall be an entity that is
13 responsible for marketing, selling, or promoting visitation
14 to a community, region, or State, including—

15 “(1) a State tourism office;

16 “(2) a political subdivision or instrumentality of
17 a State or local government;

18 “(3) a Tribal government; and

19 “(4) a nonprofit organization.

20 “(c) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after
21 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
22 establish a process under which the Secretary may receive
23 applications and make grants to eligible entities in accord-
24 ance with this section.

25 “(d) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to receive a grant
26 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the

1 Secretary an application in such form, in such manner,
2 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
3 quire.

4 “(e) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select eligible
5 entities to receive grants under this section based on fac-
6 tors to be determined by the Secretary, using the best
7 available data, including the decline in visitation and asso-
8 ciated economic losses in a region as a result of COVID–
9 19, and the amount of real or forecast revenue lost by
10 an eligible entity as a result of COVID–19.

11 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use
12 grant funds provided under this section to—

13 “(1) pay costs associated with tourism mar-
14 keting and promotion activities necessary to assist
15 with declines in visitation as a result of COVID–19;

16 “(2) pay costs associated with providing infor-
17 mation to visitors about the health and safety pro-
18 tections, guidance or requirements of Federal, State
19 or local governments and businesses to reduce the
20 spread of COVID–19;

21 “(3) pay the increased costs of sanitation or
22 cleaning to provide for a safer environment at a con-
23 vention center, large event space, or community at-
24 traction; or

1 “(4) pay the costs of salaries and expenses as-
2 sociated with the operations of the eligible entity
3 with respect to activities described in subparagraphs
4 (A), (B), and (C).

5 “(g) WAIVER.—

6 “(1) LONG-TERM PLANNING.—Sections
7 209(b)(2) and 204 shall not apply for purposes of
8 providing grants under this section.

9 “(2) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
10 waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any
11 provision of any statute or regulation that the Sec-
12 retary administers in connection with a grant under
13 this section if the Secretary determines that any
14 such waivers or alternative requirements are nec-
15 essary to expedite or facilitate the use of the
16 amounts made available under this section.

17 “(h) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding section
18 204, the Federal share of the cost of an activity carried
19 out with a grant under this section shall be 100 percent.

20 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal
22 year 2021 to carry out this section \$5,000,000,000, to re-
23 main available until expended.”.

1 **SEC. 3. DIRECT FUNDING PROMOTING TOURISM AND**
2 **HEALTHY TRAVEL.**

3 Section 601 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 801) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (d), by striking “A State,
6 Tribal government, and unit of local government”
7 and inserting “Subject to subsection (h), a State,
8 Tribal government, and unit of local government”;
9 and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(h) ELIGIBILITY.—A State, Tribal government, and
12 unit of local government may use funds provided under
13 a payment made under this section to cover expenditures
14 of the recipient that—

15 “(1) are made to assist with the economic re-
16 covery of an area impacted by a decline in travel and
17 tourism as a result of COVID–19;

18 “(2) are associated with marketing or pro-
19 moting travel or tourism to the recipient’s area, in-
20 cluding costs associated with—

21 “(A) educating visitors about local tourism
22 opportunities and health and safety guidelines;

23 “(B) marketing tourism opportunities, con-
24 vention facilities, and group meeting space that
25 are made available in accordance with applica-

1 ble State, local, or Tribal government require-
2 ments; or

3 “(C) provide information to visitors or po-
4 tential visitors regarding the health and safety
5 practices of regional businesses or attractions to
6 protect public health; and

7 “(3) were incurred during the period that be-
8 gins on the date of enactment of the Healthy and
9 Safe Travel Promotion Act of 2020 and ends on De-
10 cember 31, 2021.”.

11 **SEC. 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

12 **USE OF FUNDS.**

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for pur-
14 poses of funds provided under the heading “Economic De-
15 velopment Administration—Economic Development As-
16 sistance Programs” under title II of division B of the
17 CARES Act (Public Law 116–136), tourism and mar-
18 keting promotion activities (including educating visitors
19 about local tourism opportunities and health and safety
20 guidelines, marketing tourism opportunities, convention
21 facilities, and group meeting space that are made available
22 in accordance with applicable State or local government
23 requirements, and providing information to visitors or po-
24 tential visitors regarding the health and safety practices

1 of regional businesses or attractions to protect public
2 health) shall be considered an eligible use of such funds.

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