

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2587

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

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

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## 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”.

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

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 436(a) of the Social Secu-  
 4 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 629f) is amended by striking “2021”  
 5 and inserting “2023”.

6 (b) PROGRAM CHANGES.—Section 438 of such Act  
 7 (42 U.S.C. 629h) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
 11 “in a timely and complete manner” before  
 12 “, as set forth”; and

13 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
 14 the semicolon and inserting “, including by  
 15 training judges, attorneys, and other legal  
 16 personnel.”; and

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

18 (2) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) by striking paragraph (2);

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

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

23 (C) in the matter preceding paragraph  
 24 (2)—

25 (i) by moving the matter 2 ems to the  
 26 left;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (I) by striking “(A) in the case of  
3 a grant for the purpose described in  
4 subsection (a)(3),” and inserting  
5 “(1)”; and

6 (II) by inserting “use not less  
7 than 30 percent of grant funds to”  
8 before “collaborate”;

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

13 (iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
14 “(C) in the case of a grant for the purpose  
15 described in subsection (a),” and inserting  
16 “(3)”;

17 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
18 following:

19 “(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

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

1                   “(A) \$255,000; and

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

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

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

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

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

4           “(C) have a court responsible for pro-  
5           ceedings related to foster care or adoption.”;  
6           and

7           (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2021” and  
8           inserting “2023”.

9           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
10          this section shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

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