

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3520

To waive, for 1 year, the cost sharing requirements of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 18, 2020

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. KAINÉ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To waive, for 1 year, the cost sharing requirements of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, 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 “MEP Crisis Response
5 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ONE-YEAR WAIVER OF COST SHARING REQUIRE-**
2 **MENTS OF HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EX-**
3 **TENSION PARTNERSHIP.**

4 (a) DEFINITION OF CENTER.—In this section, the
5 term “Center” has the meaning given such term in section
6 25(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
7 nology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

8 (b) TEMPORARY WAIVER.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
10 graph (2) of this subsection, paragraph (2) of sec-
11 tion 25(e) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(e)) shall not
12 apply during the 1-year period beginning on the date
13 of the enactment of this Act.

14 (2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) of this sub-
15 section shall not apply to the extent that a Center
16 receives funding from a State that is conditioned
17 upon the application of a Federal cost sharing re-
18 quirement to the Center.

19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
21 appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce
22 \$146,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to support Cen-
23 ters.

24 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts
25 appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall sup-
26 plement and not supplant amounts already appro-

1 priated or otherwise made available to support Cen-
2 ters in fiscal year 2020.

3 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) the centers of the Hollings Manufacturing
6 Extension Partnership are front-line resources for
7 manufacturers to improve supply chain resilience,
8 workforce readiness, and technological expertise; and

9 (2) such Centers are positioned to mitigate
10 damage and accelerate recovery from the National
11 public health and economic crisis caused by COVID—
12 19.

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