

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.

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

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)”; and

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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