

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 809

To transfer funds for Energy Efficiency Improvements and Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities to the Attorney General to award grants to States to promote safety and security in schools.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 2023

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To transfer funds for Energy Efficiency Improvements and Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities to the Attorney General to award grants to States to promote safety and security in schools.

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 “Security to Avoid Vio-
5 lence in Educational Settings Act” or the “SAVES Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATES FOR SCHOOL SAFE-**
7 **TY AND SECURITY.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
2 ty” means—

3 (A) a local educational agency, as defined
4 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
5 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 7801);

7 (B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
8 tion, as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-
9 Determination and Education Assistance Act
10 (25 U.S.C. 5304); or

11 (C) an elementary school or secondary
12 school, as such terms are defined in section
13 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

15 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
16 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
17 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

18 (b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The amount appro-
19 priated for Energy Efficiency Improvements and Renew-
20 able Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities, as
21 authorized under section 40541 of the Infrastructure In-
22 vestment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18831), under the In-
23 frastructure Investments and Jobs Appropriations Act (di-
24 vision B of Public Law 117–58) is transferred to the At-
25 torney General to carry out subsection (c).

1 (c) GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATES FOR SCHOOL
2 SAFETY AND SECURITY.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
4 use the amount transferred under subsection (b) to
5 award grants to States from allotments under para-
6 graph (2) for each of fiscal years 2023 through
7 2027. From the amount transferred, \$100,000,000
8 shall be available to be allotted for each fiscal year.

9 (2) STATE ALLOTMENTS.—

10 (A) ALLOTMENT.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses
12 (ii) and (iii), from the amount available to
13 be allotted for a fiscal year under para-
14 graph (1), the Attorney General shall allot
15 to each State for the fiscal year an amount
16 that bears the same relationship to the
17 amount available as the number of individ-
18 uals residing in the State who are aged 5
19 through 17, bears to the number of such
20 individuals residing in all States.

21 (ii) SMALL STATE MINIMUM.—No
22 State receiving an allotment under this
23 subparagraph for a fiscal year shall receive
24 less than 0.75 percent of the total amount

1 allotted under this subparagraph for the
2 fiscal year.

3 (iii) PUERTO RICO.—The amount al-
4 lotted under this subparagraph to the
5 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a fiscal
6 year may not exceed 0.75 percent of the
7 total amount allotted under this subpara-
8 graph for the fiscal year.

9 (B) REALLOTMENT.—If a State does not
10 receive an allotment under this paragraph for a
11 fiscal year, the Attorney General shall reallo-
12 t the amount of the State’s allotment to the re-
13 maining States for the fiscal year in accordance
14 with this paragraph.

15 (3) USE OF ALLOTMENT.—Each State that re-
16 ceives an allotment under paragraph (2) for a fiscal
17 year shall—

18 (A) reserve not less than 95 percent of the
19 allotment to make subgrants to eligible entities
20 under paragraph (4);

21 (B) reserve not more than 1 percent of the
22 allotment for the administrative costs of car-
23 rying out its responsibilities under this section,
24 including public reporting on how funds made

1 available under this section are being expended
2 by eligible entities; and

3 (C) use the amount made available to the
4 State and not reserved under subparagraphs
5 (A) and (B) for activities designed to support
6 eligible entities in identifying, planning, and im-
7 plementing school security improvements.

8 (4) SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each State that re-
10 ceives an allotment under paragraph (2) shall
11 award subgrants to eligible entities to support
12 the eligible entities in identifying, planning, and
13 implementing school security improvements.

14 (B) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity
15 that desires to receive a subgrant grant under
16 this paragraph shall submit an application to
17 the State at such time, in such manner, and ac-
18 companied by such information as the State
19 may require.

20 (C) USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.—An eligi-
21 ble entity that receives a subgrant under this
22 paragraph shall use the subgrant funds, subject
23 to any rules established by the State, for the
24 purpose of planning and designing school build-
25 ings and facilities, installing infrastructure, and

1 implementing technology or other measures,
2 that strengthen security on school premises,
3 which may include—

4 (i) controlling access to school prem-
5 ises or facilities, through the use of metal
6 detectors, or other measures, or tech-
7 nology, with evidence-based effectiveness
8 (to the extent the State involved deter-
9 mines that such evidence is reasonably
10 available), in accordance with the needs of
11 the school;

12 (ii) implementing any technology or
13 measure, or installing any infrastructure,
14 to cover and conceal students within the
15 school during crisis situations;

16 (iii) implementing technology to pro-
17 vide notification to relevant law enforce-
18 ment and first responders during crisis sit-
19 uations;

20 (iv) implementing any technology or
21 measure, including hiring school security
22 officers, or installing any infrastructure,
23 with evidence-based effectiveness (to the
24 extent the State involved determines that
25 such evidence is reasonably available) to

1 increase the safety of school students and
2 staff;

3 (v) implementing any digital content
4 monitoring technology to assist in the mon-
5 itoring of communication on school-pro-
6 vided platforms, as long as the system does
7 not transmit data outside of the United
8 States and uses human review instead of
9 automated alerts to increase safety of
10 school students and staff;

11 (vi) implementing any technology or
12 measure, or installing any infrastructure,
13 for school safety reinforcement, including
14 bullet-resistant doors and windows; and

15 (vii) implementing any technology or
16 system that would reduce the time needed
17 to disseminate official information to par-
18 ents regarding the safety of their children
19 during and immediately following a crisis.

20 (D) RESTRICTION ON DOJ.—The Attorney
21 General may not promulgate a rule that re-
22 stricts a State’s ability to determine the eligible
23 uses of subgrant funds awarded under this
24 paragraph.

25 (5) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) STATE MATCH.—Each State that re-
2 ceives a grant under this section shall provide
3 non-Federal matching funds equal to 20 per-
4 cent of the amount of the grant toward the cost
5 of carrying out the activities described in this
6 section.

7 (B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY MATCH.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity
9 that receives a subgrant under this section
10 shall provide matching funds, in cash or
11 through in-kind contributions, from Fed-
12 eral, State, local, or private sources in an
13 amount equal to 5 percent of the amount
14 of the subgrant toward the cost of carrying
15 out the activities described in this section.

16 (ii) WAIVER.—

17 (I) IN GENERAL.—A State may
18 waive the matching funds requirement
19 under clause (i), on a case-by-case
20 basis, upon a showing of exceptional
21 circumstances, such as—

22 (aa) the difficulty of raising
23 matching funds for a program to
24 serve a rural area;

1 (bb) the difficulty of raising
2 matching funds in areas with a
3 concentration of local educational
4 agencies or schools with a high
5 percentage of students aged 5
6 through 17—

7 (AA) who are in pov-
8 erty, as counted in the most
9 recent census data approved
10 by the Attorney General;

11 (BB) who are eligible
12 for a free or reduced price
13 lunch under the Richard B.
14 Russell National School
15 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751
16 et seq.);

17 (CC) whose families re-
18 ceive assistance under the
19 State program funded under
20 part A of title IV of the So-
21 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C.
22 601 et seq.); or

23 (DD) who are eligible
24 to receive medical assistance

1 under the Medicaid pro-
2 gram; and

3 (cc) the difficulty of raising
4 funds on tribal land.

5 (II) STATE TO COVER ELIGIBLE
6 ENTITY MATCH.—A State that waives
7 the matching funds requirement
8 under clause (i), shall provide the
9 amount waived in addition to the
10 State match required under subpara-
11 graph (A).

12 (iii) CONSIDERATION.—A State shall
13 not consider an eligible entity's ability to
14 match funds when determining which eligi-
15 ble entity will receive subgrants under this
16 section.

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