

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3008

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to promote civic learning and engagement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2015

Mr. HONDA (for himself and Mr. COLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to promote civic learning and engagement, 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 “Sandra Day O’Connor
5 Civic Learning Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. CIVIC LEARNING GRANTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 3 of part C of title II
8 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 6711 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) by repealing sections 2341 through 2344
2 and inserting the following:

3 **“SEC. 2341. CIVIC LEARNING GRANTS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award com-
5 petitive grants to eligible entities for the development and
6 implementation of programs to promote civic learning and
7 engagement, American history, geography, and economics.

8 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use a
9 grant received under this section to develop and implement
10 a program to promote civic learning and engagement,
11 American history, geography, or economics through in-
12 struction, professional development, and evaluation activi-
13 ties that promote any of the following:

14 “(1) Equity through access to funding and pro-
15 gram benefits, including—

16 “(A) programs that meet the needs of stu-
17 dents with divergent learning styles, students of
18 varying ethnic, racial, and socio-economic back-
19 grounds, and students who are English lan-
20 guage learners; and

21 “(B) resources that serve student popu-
22 lations that have not traditionally received op-
23 portunities for high quality, engaging instruc-
24 tion in civics, history, geography or economics,

1 with a special emphasis on inner-city and rural
2 underserved students.

3 “(2) Innovation through design, settings, and
4 delivery, including service learning, interactive on-
5 line programming, and other approaches to engaging
6 students in active learning and civic participation.

7 “(3) Scalability through broad, cost-effective
8 implementation and institutionalization, including—

9 “(A) use of the latest technological devel-
10 opments;

11 “(B) an emphasis on programs designed to
12 address relevant State and National educational
13 standards; and

14 “(C) utilization of low per-participant cost
15 models of expanding the number of active stu-
16 dents and teachers.

17 “(4) Accountability through assessment and
18 identification of best practice models, including—

19 “(A) independent research and evaluation
20 to help assess the effects of civic education pro-
21 grams on students’ knowledge, skills, and traits
22 of character essential for the preservation and
23 improvement of constitutional democracy;

1 “(B) identifying techniques that succeed
2 with traditionally underserved student popu-
3 lations; and

4 “(C) evaluation of teachers’ knowledge and
5 the adequacy of the teaching facility.

6 “(c) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a nonprofit edu-
8 cational organization.”; and

9 (2) by redesignating sections 2345 and 2346 as
10 sections 2342 and 2343, respectively.

11 (b) CONFORMING CHANGES.—

12 (1) Section 2342 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6715),
13 as redesignated by subsection (a)(2), is amended—

14 (A) in subsection (a)—

15 (i) by striking “organizations de-
16 scribed in section 2343(a)(3)” each place it
17 appears and inserting “organizations expe-
18 rienced in the development of curricula and
19 programs in civics and government edu-
20 cation and economic education for students
21 in elementary schools and secondary
22 schools in countries other than the United
23 States”; and

1 (ii) by striking “use funds made avail-
2 able under grants or contracts under sec-
3 tion 2343 to”;

4 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “the
5 Center for Civic Education, the National Coun-
6 cil on Economic Education, and organizations
7 described in section 2343(a)(3)” and inserting
8 “an entity specified in subsection (a)”;

9 (C) in subsection (e), by striking “de-
10 scribed in section 2343” and inserting “speci-
11 fied in subsection (a)”;

12 (D) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “the
13 Center for Civic Education, the National Coun-
14 cil on Economic Education, or organizations de-
15 scribed in section 2343(a)(3)” and inserting
16 “an entity specified in subsection (a)”.

17 (2) The table of contents of such Act (20
18 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by striking the
19 items relating to sections 2341 through 2346 and
20 inserting the following:

“2341. Civic learning grants.

“2342. Cooperative civic education and economic education exchange programs.

“2343. Authorization of appropriations.”.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
22 2343 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6716), as redesignated by
23 subsection (a)(2), is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 2343. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated for each of
3 fiscal years 2016 through 2021—

4 “(1) \$28,500,000 for grants under section
5 2341; and

6 “(2) \$1,500,000 for programs under section
7 2342.”.

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