

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3604

To establish a grant program to assist States to establish or expand universal prekindergarten in public schools and public charter schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a grant program to assist States to establish or expand universal prekindergarten in public schools and public charter 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 “Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY**
7 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—From amounts ap-
9 propriated under section 3, the Secretary of Education is
10 authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to

1 States to pay the Federal share of establishing or expand-
2 ing full-day prekindergarten programs.

3 (b) STATE APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under
4 this Act, a State shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
5 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
6 information as the Secretary may require.

7 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a grant
8 under this Act shall use such grant funds to establish or
9 expand a prekindergarten program that, at a minimum—

10 (1) is located at a public school in the State;

11 (2) permits each 3- or 4-year-old child in the
12 State to be voluntarily enrolled by the child’s parent,
13 regardless of income, in the program at a school in
14 which the child may be enrolled for kindergarten;

15 (3) is a full-day program that runs the length
16 of the regular school year;

17 (4) is taught by teachers who possess equivalent
18 or similar qualifications to the qualifications of
19 teachers of other grades in the school involved; and

20 (5) meets any other criteria that the Secretary
21 may require.

22 (d) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a grant
23 under this Act shall be not more than 80 percent of the
24 costs of carrying out the activities described in subsection
25 (c).

1 (e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds re-
2 ceived under this Act shall be used to supplement and not
3 supplant other Federal early childhood education funds in
4 the State.

5 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
7 this Act such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 2016
8 through 2021.

9 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) FULL-DAY.—The term “full-day” used with
12 respect to a program, means a program with a min-
13 imum of a 6-hour schedule per day.

14 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Education.

16 (3) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
17 ing given the term in section 9101 of the Elemen-
18 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 7801).

20 (4) PARENT.—The term “parent” has the
21 meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Ele-
22 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
23 U.S.C. 7801).

24 (5) PUBLIC SCHOOL.—The term “public
25 school” has the meaning given the term “elementary

1 school” or “secondary school” in section 9101 of the
2 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
3 (20 U.S.C. 7801), except that the term does not in-
4 clude private schools.

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