

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1508

To amend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to modify the authorized uses of certain county funds and to extend the deadline for participating counties to initiate projects and obligate funds.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HATCH, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to modify the authorized uses of certain county funds and to extend the deadline for participating counties to initiate projects and obligate funds.

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. AUTHORIZED USES OF COUNTY FUNDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302(a) of the Secure
5 Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of

1 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7142(a)) is amended by striking para-
 2 graphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

3 “(2) to reimburse the participating county
 4 for—

5 “(A) search and rescue and other emer-
 6 gency services, including firefighting, law en-
 7 forcement patrols, and evacuations, that are—

8 “(i) performed on Federal land after
 9 the date on which the use was approved
 10 under subsection (b); and

11 “(ii) paid for by the participating
 12 county;

13 “(B) search and rescue preparedness train-
 14 ing; and

15 “(C) capital equipment, equipment mainte-
 16 nance, and other purchases relating to carrying
 17 out search and rescue and other emergency
 18 services; and

19 “(3) to develop and implement community wild-
 20 fire protection plans in coordination with the appro-
 21 priate Secretary concerned.”.

22 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

23 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 (A) APPROVED COUNTY FUNDS.—The
 25 term “approved county funds” means county

1 funds (as defined in section 301 of the Secure
2 Rural Schools and Community Self-Determina-
3 tion Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7141)) the use of
4 which, as of the date of enactment of this Act,
5 has been approved under section 302(b) of that
6 Act (16 U.S.C. 7142(b)) for an authorized use
7 described in section 302(a) of that Act (as in
8 effect on the day before the date of enactment
9 of this Act).

10 (B) NEW AUTHORIZED USE.—The term
11 “new authorized use” means—

12 (i) a law enforcement patrol or evacu-
13 ation authorized under subparagraph (A)
14 of section 302(a)(2) of the Secure Rural
15 Schools and Community Self-Determina-
16 tion Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7142(a)(2))
17 (as amended by subsection (a)); and

18 (ii) any other authorized use described
19 in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section
20 302(a)(2) of that Act (16 U.S.C.
21 7142(a)(2)) (as so amended).

22 (C) PARTICIPATING COUNTY.—The term
23 “participating county” has the meaning given
24 the term in section 301 of the Secure Rural

1 Schools and Community Self-Determination Act
2 of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7141).

3 (2) NEW AUTHORIZED USES.—Notwithstanding
4 section 302(b) of the Secure Rural Schools and
5 Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16
6 U.S.C. 7142(b)), effective beginning on the date of
7 enactment of this Act, a participating county may
8 use any approved county funds for a new authorized
9 use.

10 **SEC. 2. REALLOCATION OF COUNTY FUNDS.**

11 Section 302 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-
12 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7142) is
13 amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(c) REALLOCATION OF COUNTY FUNDS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A participating county may
16 reallocate county funds that have been allocated for
17 a use described in subsection (a) for a different use
18 described in subsection (a).

19 “(2) PROPOSALS.—A participating county may
20 reallocate county funds under paragraph (1) only
21 after a 45-day public comment period, at the begin-
22 ning of which the participating county shall publish
23 in any publications of local record a proposal that
24 describes the proposed use of the county funds to be
25 reallocated.”.

1 **SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

2 Section 304 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-
3 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2017” and
6 inserting “2019”; and

7 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(b) AVAILABILITY.—County funds shall remain
10 available until expended.”.

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