

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 256

To provide funding for humanitarian relief at the southern border of the United States.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide funding for humanitarian relief at the southern border of the United States.

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 “Southern Border Com-  
5 munities Reimbursement Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AT THE BOR-**  
7 **DER.**

8 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is  
9 authorized to be appropriated for the emergency food and  
10 shelter program under title III of the McKinney-Vento

1 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331 et seq.), for  
2 use only under subsection (b) of this section, \$30,000,000  
3 for each of fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

4 (b) USE.—

5 (1) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Amounts made available  
6 under subsection (a) may be used only to reimburse  
7 costs related to providing humanitarian relief to  
8 aliens, including the cost of emergency preparedness  
9 activities.

10 (2) DISBURSEMENT DEADLINE.—Notwith-  
11 standing sections 315 and 316(b) of the McKinney-  
12 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11345,  
13 11346(b)), the Emergency Food and Shelter Pro-  
14 gram National Board shall begin disbursing the  
15 amounts made available under subsection (a) of this  
16 section not later than 60 days after the date on  
17 which the amounts become available.

18 (3) DISTRIBUTION.—Of the amounts made  
19 available for a fiscal year under subsection (a), the  
20 Emergency Food and Shelter Program National  
21 Board shall distribute—

22 (A) \$25,000,000 to jurisdictions or local  
23 recipient organizations serving communities in  
24 the States of Arizona, California, New Mexico,  
25 and Texas; and

1           (B) \$5,000,000 to jurisdictions or local re-  
2           ipient organizations serving communities in  
3           States not located along the international bor-  
4           der between the United States and Mexico.

5           (4) ELIGIBLE PERIOD.—Amounts made avail-  
6           able under subsection (a) may be used to reimburse  
7           jurisdictions or local recipient organizations de-  
8           scribed in paragraph (3) of this subsection only for  
9           costs incurred on or after October 1, 2020.

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