

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4309

To provide interest subsidies for new school construction and renovation projects.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 1996

Mrs. LOWEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide interest subsidies for new school construction and renovation projects.

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 “National School Infra-
5 structure Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) One-third of all public elementary and sec-
2 ondary schools, serving 14,000,000 students, need
3 extensive repair or replacement.

4 (2) Many public schools do not have the phys-
5 ical infrastructure, such as adequate electrical wiring
6 for computers and communications technology, to
7 allow students to meet the challenges of the next
8 century.

9 (3) Many school districts need to build new
10 schools to accommodate enrollment growth, which is
11 expected to increase by 20 percent between 1990
12 and 2004 for public elementary and secondary
13 schools.

14 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.**

15 The Secretary of Education is authorized to provide
16 interest subsidies to lower the cost of school construction
17 and renovation project costs described in section 5.

18 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide inter-
20 est subsidies to the following:

21 (1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

22 (A) DETERMINATION BASED ON NUMBER
23 OF CHILDREN SERVED.—The 100 local edu-
24 cational agencies that serve the greatest num-
25 ber of children who qualify to be counted under

1 section 1124 of the Elementary and Secondary
2 Education Act of 1965;

3 (B) DETERMINATION BASED ON NEED.—

4 In additional to the agencies described in sub-
5 paragraph (A), 25 local educational agencies
6 which have the greatest need, as determined by
7 the Secretary.

8 (2) STATES.—States for use by local edu-
9 cational agencies that do not qualify for an interest
10 subsidy under paragraph (1).

11 (b) MAXIMUM SUBSIDIES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—To determine the amount of
13 interest subsidy under subsection (a), the Secretary
14 may provide, on a sliding scale based on need, inter-
15 est subsidies of not more than 50 percent of the
16 total costs of repairing existing school facilities and
17 buildings and constructing new facilities and build-
18 ings.

19 (2) RULES AND REGULATIONS.— The Secretary
20 shall publish in the Federal Register the criteria to
21 be used to establish the sliding scale under para-
22 graph (1).

23 (c) DURATION OF SUBSIDIES.—The interest sub-
24 sidies shall be available for a period not to exceed 4 years.

1 **SEC. 5. USES OF FUNDS.**

2 An interest subsidy provided under this Act shall be
3 used to lower the cost of school construction or renovation
4 projects for one or more of the following purposes:

5 (1) Fixing or upgrading classrooms or struc-
6 tures related to academic learning, including leaking
7 roofs, crumbling walls, inadequate plumbing, poor
8 ventilation, and heating or light problems.

9 (2) Increasing physical safety at the school.

10 (3) Enhancing access for students, teachers,
11 and other people with disabilities.

12 (4) Improving energy efficiency.

13 (5) Addressing environmental hazards, such as
14 poor ventilation, indoor air quality, or lighting.

15 (6) Providing the basic infrastructure that fa-
16 cilitates educational technology, such as communica-
17 tions outlets, electrical systems, power outlets, or a
18 communication closet.

19 (7) Constructing new schools to meet the needs
20 imposed by enrollment growth.

21 **SEC. 6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

22 Upon request, the Secretary shall provide or provide
23 for technical assistance to State, local, and school officials
24 regarding school construction and renovation, including
25 building needs evaluation, enrollment projection informa-

1 tion, innovative financing strategies, and effective preven-
2 tive maintenance strategies.

3 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
5 priated \$1,250,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1998
6 through 2002.

7 (b) OFFSET FUNDS.—

8 (1) COLLECTIONS.—Any appropriation made
9 pursuant to the authorization made by subsection
10 (a) shall be made by offsetting collections derived
11 from competitive bidding for broadcast spectrum
12 under section 309(j) of the Communications Act of
13 1934.

14 (2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
15 section, the term “broadcast spectrum” means the
16 band of frequencies currently allocated for television
17 channels 60 through 69.

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