

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1205

To provide discounted housing for teachers and other staff in rural areas of States with a population less than 1,000,000 and with a high population of Native Americans or Alaska Natives.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2003

Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To provide discounted housing for teachers and other staff in rural areas of States with a population less than 1,000,000 and with a high population of Native Americans or Alaska Natives.

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 The Act may be cited as the “Rural Teacher Housing
5 Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term “elemen-
2 tary school” has the meaning given that term in sec-
3 tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

5 (2) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL DISTRICT.—The term
6 “eligible school district” means a school district lo-
7 cated within a qualified municipality within an eligi-
8 ble State and is within the boundaries of—

9 (A) Indian lands;

10 (B) 1 or more Native villages; or

11 (C) land owned by 1 or more Village Cor-
12 porations.

13 (3) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term “eligible
14 State” means any State having a population of
15 fewer than 1,000,000 people, based upon the most
16 recent Government census.

17 (4) INDIAN LANDS.—The term “Indian lands”
18 has the meaning given that term in section 2103 of
19 the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 81).

20 (5) NATIVE VILLAGE.—The term “Native vil-
21 lage” has the meaning given that term in section 3
22 of the Alaska Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C
23 1602).

24 (6) OTHER STAFF.—The term “other staff”
25 means pupil services personnel, librarians, career

1 guidance and counseling personnel, education aides,
2 and other instructional and administrative per-
3 sonnel.

4 (7) QUALIFIED MUNICIPALITY.—The term
5 “qualified municipality” means a municipality or un-
6 organized borough within an eligible State—

7 (A) that has a total population of 6,500 or
8 fewer people, based upon the most recent Gov-
9 ernment census; and

10 (B) does not have direct access to either a
11 State or interstate highway system.

12 (8) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
13 ondary school” has the meaning given that term in
14 section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

16 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

18 (10) TEACHER.—The term “teacher” means an
19 individual who is employed as a teacher in a public
20 elementary or secondary school, and meets the cer-
21 tification or licensure requirements of the eligible
22 State.

23 (11) VILLAGE CORPORATION.—The term “Vil-
24 lage Corporation” has the meaning given that term

1 in section 3 of the Alaska Claims Settlement Act (43
2 U.S.C. 1602).

3 **SEC. 3. RURAL TEACHER HOUSING PROGRAM.**

4 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall pro-
5 vide funds to eligible States, in accordance with such pro-
6 cedures as the Secretary determines are appropriate, to
7 be used as provided in subsection (b).

8 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds received pursuant to
10 subsection (a) shall be used by the eligible State to
11 make grants to eligible school districts to be used as
12 provided in paragraph (2).

13 (2) USE OF FUNDS BY ELIGIBLE SCHOOL DIS-
14 TRICTS.—Grants received by an eligible school dis-
15 trict pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be used for—

16 (A) the construction of new housing units
17 within a qualified municipality;

18 (B) the purchase and rehabilitation of ex-
19 isting housing units within a qualified munici-
20 pality; or

21 (C) the rehabilitation of housing units
22 within a qualified municipality that are owned
23 by an eligible school district.

24 (c) OWNERSHIP OF HOUSING.—All housing units
25 constructed or purchased with grant funds awarded under

1 this Act shall be owned by the relevant eligible school dis-
2 trict.

3 (d) OCCUPANCY OF HOUSING UNITS.—Each housing
4 unit constructed, purchased, or rehabilitated with grant
5 funds under this Act shall be provided to teachers or other
6 staff who are employed by the public school district in
7 which the housing unit is located, under terms agreed
8 upon by the eligible school district and the teacher or other
9 staff.

10 (e) COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING CODES.—Each eli-
11 gible school district receiving a grant under this Act shall
12 ensure that all housing units leased pursuant to subsection
13 (d) meet all applicable State and local building codes.

14 (f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Each State that re-
15 ceives Federal funds under this Act shall provide matching
16 funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to 20
17 percent of such Federal funds.

18 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There are authorized to be appropriated to the De-
20 partment of Housing and Urban Development
21 \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2004 through
22 2013 to carry out this Act.

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