

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a Library Stabilization Fund to respond to and accelerate the recovery from coronavirus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a Library Stabilization Fund to respond to and accelerate the recovery from coronavirus.

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 “Library Stabilization
5 Fund Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CORONAVIRUS.—The term “coronavirus”
9 means the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19).

1 (2) **DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS.**—The term
2 “digital literacy skills” has the meaning given the
3 term in section 202 of the Museum and Library
4 Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101).

5 (3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” has the
6 meaning given the term in section 202 of the Mu-
7 seum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101).

8 (4) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe”
9 has the meaning given the term in section 202 of the
10 Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101).

11 (5) **LIBRARY.**—The term “library” has the
12 meaning given the term in section 213 of the Li-
13 brary Services and Technology Act (20 U.S.C.
14 9122).

15 (6) **STATE.**—The term “State” has the mean-
16 ing given the term in section 213 of the Library
17 Services and Technology Act (20 U.S.C. 9122).

18 (7) **STATE LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE AGEN-**
19 **CY.**—The term “State library administrative agen-
20 cy” has the meaning given the term in section 213
21 of the Library Services and Technology Act (20
22 U.S.C. 9122).

23 **SEC. 3. LIBRARY STABILIZATION FUND.**

24 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—From the amount appro-
25 priated under section 8, there is established a Library Sta-

1 bilization Fund to respond to and accelerate the recovery
2 from the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus and
3 to address the social inequities that have been exacerbated
4 during the crisis.

5 (b) ALLOCATIONS.—From the amount available in
6 the Library Stabilization Fund, the Director shall allo-
7 cate—

8 (1) not less than \$1,715,000,000 to the States;

9 (2) not less than \$45,000,000 to Indian Tribes
10 and to organizations that primarily serve and rep-
11 resent Native Hawaiians; and

12 (3) not less than \$200,000,000 to carry out ac-
13 tivities strengthening the ability of libraries to pro-
14 vide services to communities affected by coronavirus.

15 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—Funds provided under sub-
16 section (b) may be used to provide support to libraries—

17 (1) to continue to provide library services to
18 their communities, including by supporting general
19 operations, paying staff, ensuring the ongoing
20 functionality of libraries (including by purchasing
21 deep cleaning services and coronavirus response sup-
22 plies), and supporting the continued development of,
23 and training of library staff on, best practices for
24 the safe handling of library materials and ways to
25 sustain reopening and operations;

1 (2) to safely provide access to computers, print-
2 ers, copiers, and other technology (including new
3 and emerging technologies) in libraries, to expand
4 digital network access, purchase and lend internet
5 accessible devices (such as laptops and hotspots),
6 and purchase and lend digital resources, and to pro-
7 vide technical support services for users in the li-
8 brary and for those using borrowed devices remotely;

9 (3) to strengthen and expand services and re-
10 sources relating to early education and literacy, dis-
11 tance learning and education (including through
12 partnerships with public schools to ensure continuity
13 of education and address learning loss), adult edu-
14 cation, job searches and resume building, workforce
15 development and skills training, economic and busi-
16 ness development, health information, digital literacy
17 skills, and financial literacy; and

18 (4) to ensure access to government and commu-
19 nity services, cultural resources, and related func-
20 tions and activities.

21 (d) ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount available
23 in the Library Stabilization Fund, the Director may
24 allocate not more than 2 percent of such amount for
25 program administration, oversight activities, re-

1 search, analysis, and data collection related to pre-
2 venting, preparing for, and responding to
3 coronavirus.

4 (2) REPORTS.—From the research, analysis,
5 and data collection carried out under paragraph (1),
6 including what is gathered from entities receiving
7 funding under this Act, the Director shall issue re-
8 ports to the Committee on Appropriations of the
9 Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the
10 House of Representatives detailing how funding
11 under this Act has been spent and its impact on im-
12 proving library services in communities that are
13 served.

14 (e) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT OR NONFEDERAL
15 SHARE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
16 State, Indian Tribe, organization, library, or other entity
17 that receives a grant under this Act shall not be required
18 to provide matching funds or a nonfederal share toward
19 the cost of the activities carried out with the grant funds.

20 **SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY LIBRARY RELIEF FUND.**

21 (a) GRANTS.—From the funds allocated under sec-
22 tion 3(b)(1), the Director shall make Emergency Library
23 Relief grants to each State library administrative agency
24 with an approved 5-year plan.

1 (b) ALLOTMENTS.—The Director shall make grants
2 under subsection (a) from allotments to States in the same
3 manner as the Director makes allotments to States under
4 section 221(b) of the Library Services and Technology Act
5 (20 U.S.C. 9131(b)), except that, for purposes of this sec-
6 tion, the minimum allotment for each State shall be
7 \$10,000,000, except that the minimum allotment shall be
8 \$500,000 in the case of the United States Virgin Islands,
9 Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
10 ern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands,
11 the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of
12 Palau.

13 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—A State library administrative
14 agency that receives a grant under this section shall—

15 (1) use the grant funds in accordance with sec-
16 tion 3(c); and

17 (2) prioritize support through grants to librar-
18 ies in communities that the State library administra-
19 tive agency determines have been most significantly
20 impacted by the coronavirus.

21 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 4 percent of
22 the total amount of funds received under this section by
23 a State library administrative agency may be used for ad-
24 ministrative costs.

1 **SEC. 5. NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES RELIEF**
2 **FUND.**

3 From the funds allocated under section 3(b)(2), the
4 Director shall make Emergency Library Relief grants to
5 Indian Tribes and to organizations that primarily serve
6 and represent Native Hawaiians in the same manner as
7 the Director makes grants under section 261 of the Li-
8 brary Services and Technology Act (20 U.S.C. 9161) to
9 enable the Tribes and organizations to carry out the activi-
10 ties described in section 3(c).

11 **SEC. 6. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**

12 With respect to amounts made available under sec-
13 tions (4) and (5), the Director shall waive the require-
14 ment, if requested by the entities funded under these sec-
15 tions, under section 223(c) of the Museum and Library
16 Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9133(c)) relating to maintenance
17 of effort.

18 **SEC. 7. STRENGTHENING THE ABILITY OF LIBRARIES TO**
19 **PROVIDE SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES AF-**
20 **FECTED BY CORONAVIRUS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the funds allocated under
22 section 3(b)(3), the Director shall carry out activities
23 strengthening the ability of libraries to provide services to
24 communities affected by the coronavirus and in accord-
25 ance with the support described in section 3(c).

1 (b) USES OF FUNDS.—The Director may carry out
2 the activities described in this section by entering into ar-
3 rangements, including grants, contracts, cooperative
4 agreements, and other forms of assistance, with libraries,
5 library consortia and associations, institutions of higher
6 education, and other entities that the Director determines
7 appropriate.

8 (c) PRIORITY.—The Director shall prioritize support
9 under this section through grants to libraries in commu-
10 nities that the Director determines have been most signifi-
11 cantly impacted by coronavirus.

12 (d) APPLICATIONS.—Not later than 45 days after the
13 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue a
14 notice inviting applications for grants, contracts, coopera-
15 tive agreements, and other forms of assistance under this
16 section.

17 (e) ALLOCATIONS.—The Director—

18 (1) shall allocate not less than half the funds
19 made available to carry out this section not later
20 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this
21 Act; and

22 (2) may make additional allocations on a rolling
23 basis based on the best available data at the time of
24 the allocation.

1 (f) REPORT.—An entity with whom the Director has
2 entered into an arrangement under this section shall sub-
3 mit a report to the Director, at such time and in such
4 manner as the Director may require, that describes the
5 use of funds provided under this section.

6 **SEC. 8. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
8 priated, and there is appropriated, \$2,000,000,000, to re-
9 main available through September 30, 2021, to carry out
10 this Act.

11 (b) DESIGNATED FOR AN EMERGENCY.—The amount
12 under subsection (a) is designated by the Congress as
13 being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section
14 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency
15 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).