

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3496

To develop a demonstration project through the National Science Foundation to encourage interest in the fields of mathematics, science, and information technology.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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 develop a demonstration project through the National Science Foundation to encourage interest in the fields of mathematics, science, and information technology.

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 “Information Tech-
5 nology Partnership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

7 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—

1 (A) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Director of
2 the National Science Foundation shall, subject
3 to appropriations, carry out a demonstration
4 project under which the Director awards grants
5 in accordance with this Act to 5 eligible local
6 educational agencies.

7 (B) USES OF FUNDS.—A local educational
8 agency that receives a grant under this Act may
9 use such grant funds to develop an information
10 technology program that builds or expands
11 mathematics, science, and information tech-
12 nology curricula, to purchase equipment nec-
13 essary to establish such program, and to pro-
14 vide teacher training in such fields.

15 (2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The program
16 described in paragraph (1) shall—

17 (A) train teachers specifically in informa-
18 tion technology, mathematics, and science; and

19 (B) provide students with specialized train-
20 ing in mathematics, science, and information
21 technology.

22 (b) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—For
23 purposes of this Act, a local educational agency is eligible
24 to receive a grant under this Act if the agency—

1 (1) is located in one of the cities which has re-
2 ceived an award from the National Science Founda-
3 tion under the Urban Systemic Initiative program;

4 (2) provides assurances that it has executed
5 conditional agreements with representatives of the
6 private sector to provide services and funds de-
7 scribed in subsection (c); and

8 (3) agrees to enter into an agreement with the
9 Director to comply with the requirements of this
10 Act.

11 (c) PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION.—The condi-
12 tional agreement referred to in subsection (b)(2) shall de-
13 scribe participation by the private sector, including—

14 (1) the donation of computer hardware and
15 software;

16 (2) the establishment of internship and mentor-
17 ing opportunities for students who participate in the
18 information technology program; and

19 (3) the donation of scholarship funds for eligi-
20 ble students who have participated in the informa-
21 tion technology program.

22 (d) APPLICATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible local edu-
24 cational agency desiring a grant under this section
25 shall submit an application to the Director in ac-

1 cordance with guidelines established by the Director
2 pursuant to paragraph (2).

3 (2) GUIDELINES.—

4 (A) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines re-
5 ferred to in paragraph (1) shall require, at a
6 minimum, that the application include—

7 (i) a description of proposed activities
8 consistent with the uses of funds and pro-
9 gram requirements under subsection
10 (a)(1)(B) and (a)(2);

11 (ii) a description of the scholarship
12 program, including criteria for selection,
13 duration of scholarship, number of scholar-
14 ships to be awarded each year, and fund-
15 ing levels for scholarships; and

16 (iii) evidence of private sector partici-
17 pation and financial support to establish
18 an internship, mentoring, and scholarship
19 program.

20 (B) GUIDELINE PUBLICATION.—The Di-
21 rector shall issue and publish such guidelines
22 not later than 6 months after the date of the
23 enactment of this Act.

24 (3) SELECTION.—The Director shall select a
25 local educational agency to receive an award under

1 this Act in accordance with subsection (e) and on
2 the basis of merit to be determined after conducting
3 a comprehensive review.

4 (e) **PRIORITY.**—The Director shall give special prior-
5 ity in awarding grants under this Act to eligible local edu-
6 cational agencies that demonstrate the greatest ability to
7 obtain commitments from representatives of the private
8 sector to provide services and funds described under sub-
9 section (c).

10 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING.**

11 (a) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Director shall assess the ef-
12 fectiveness of activities carried out under this Act. Such
13 assessment shall be included as part of the assessment and
14 reporting process used for the Urban Systemic Initiatives
15 program.

16 (b) **STUDY.**—The Director shall initiate a longitu-
17 dinal study of eligible students selected for scholarships
18 pursuant to this Act and shall report such findings to Con-
19 gress not later than 4 years after the award of the first
20 scholarship. Such report shall include the number of stu-
21 dents graduating from an institution of higher education
22 with a major in mathematics, science, or information tech-
23 nology and the number of students who find employment
24 in such fields.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Except as otherwise provided, for purposes of this
3 Act—

4 (1) the term “Director” means the Director of
5 the National Science Foundation;

6 (2) the term “eligible student” means a student
7 enrolled in the 12th grade who—

8 (A) would be a first-generation college stu-
9 dent;

10 (B) has participated in an information
11 technology program established pursuant to this
12 Act;

13 (C) has demonstrated a commitment to
14 pursue a career in information technology,
15 mathematics, science, or engineering; and

16 (D) has attained high academic standing
17 and maintains a grade point average of not less
18 than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the last 2 years of
19 secondary school (11th and 12th grades); and

20 (3) the term “local educational agency” has the
21 same meaning given such term in section 14101 of
22 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
23 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801);

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
3 priated to the National Science Foundation to carry out
4 this Act, \$1,500,000.

5 (b) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—An award made to
6 an eligible local educational agency under this Act may
7 not exceed \$300,000.

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