

Provisions Related to Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Bill Textⁱ

“‘Hurricane Education Recovery’ for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, or wildfires in 2017 for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under sections 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5190) (referred to under this heading as “covered disaster or emergency”), \$2,700,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2022, for assisting in meeting the educational needs of individuals affected by a covered disaster or emergency: ...

“(1) such funds shall be used—

(A) to make awards to eligible entities for immediate aid to restart school operations, in accordance with paragraph (2);

(B) for temporary emergency impact aid for displaced students, in accordance with paragraph (2);

(C) for emergency assistance to institutions of higher education and students attending institutions of higher education in an area directly affected by a covered disaster or emergency in accordance with paragraph (3);

(D) for payments to institutions of higher education to help defray the unexpected expenses associated with enrolling displaced students from institutions of higher education directly affected by a covered disaster or emergency, in accordance with paragraph (4); and

(E) to provide assistance to local educational agencies serving homeless children and youth in accordance with paragraph (5);

...

“(3) \$100,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be for programs authorized under subpart 3 of Part A, part C of title IV and part B of title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq., 1138 et seq.) for institutions located in an area affected by a covered disaster or emergency, and students enrolled in such institutions, except that—

(A) any requirements relating to matching, Federal share, reservation of funds, or maintenance of effort under such parts that would otherwise be applicable to that assistance shall not apply;

(B) such assistance may be used for student financial assistance;

(C) such assistance may also be used for faculty and staff salaries, equipment, student supplies and instruments, or any purpose authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965, by institutions of higher education that are located in areas affected by a covered disaster or emergency; and

(D) the Secretary shall prioritize, to the extent possible, students who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless as a result of displacement, and institutions that have sustained extensive damage, by a covered disaster or emergency;

“(4) up to \$75,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be for payments to institutions of higher education to help defray the unexpected expenses associated with enrolling displaced students from institutions of higher education at which operations have been disrupted by a covered disaster or emergency, in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary and made publicly available;

“(5) \$25,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to provide assistance to local educational agencies serving homeless children and youths displaced by a covered disaster or emergency, consistent with section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431–11435) and with section 106 of title IV of division B of Public Law 109-148ⁱⁱ, except that funds shall be disbursed based on demonstrated need and the number of homeless children and youth enrolled as a result of displacement by a covered disaster or emergency....”

ⁱ See pages 71-78 of Senate Bill.

ⁱⁱ SEC. 106. ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS YOUTH.

(a) In General.--The Secretary of Education shall provide assistance to local educational agencies serving homeless children and youths displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, consistent with section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11433), including identification, enrollment assistance, assessment and school placement assistance, transportation, coordination of school services, supplies, referrals for health, mental health, and other needs.

(b) Exception and Distribution of Funds.—

(1) Exception.--For purposes of providing assistance under subsection (a), subsections (c) and (e)(1) of section 722 and subsections (b) and (c) of section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(c) and (e)(1), 11433(b) and (c)) shall not apply.

(2) Disbursement.--The Secretary of Education shall disburse funding provided under subsection (a) to State educational agencies based on demonstrated need, as determined by the Secretary, and such State educational agencies shall distribute funds, that are appropriated under section 109 and available to carry out this section, to local educational agencies based on demonstrated need, for the purposes of carrying out section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11433).