

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

CONGRESS: Expresses support for the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund, proposed for the purpose of helping states and local governments respond to the current public health and economic crisis

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express support for the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART)

3 Fund as proposed by Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Senator Bob Menendez

4 of New Jersey for the purpose of helping states and local governments respond to the

5 current public health and economic crisis while maintaining essential services.

6 WHEREAS, Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Senator Bob Menendez of New

7 Jersey have announced a bipartisan plan to deliver critical federal resources to the states and

8 communities on the front lines of the COVID-19 fight; and

9 WHEREAS, the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART)

10 Fund builds upon the existing \$150 billion set aside in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and

11 Economic Security (CARES) Act to help states and local governments; and

12 WHEREAS, the SMART Fund expands eligibility to include parishes and

13 municipalities with populations of fifty thousand or greater (the current threshold is five

14 hundred thousand), ensures that every eligible entity receives additional funding, increases

15 flexibility for states and local governments to use the funds to replace revenue losses due to

16 the COVID-19 outbreak, and targets additional funding toward coronavirus hot zones to

17 directly combat the pandemic; and

18 WHEREAS, Louisiana has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic, and

19 this is an important step toward assisting the state's communities in maintaining essential

20 services and protecting the state's financial future; and

1 WHEREAS, the SMART Fund calls for an additional five hundred billion dollars in
2 COVID-19 state stabilization funds to help support state and local government efforts to
3 fight the pandemic; these funds can be used to help meet the current demand while helping
4 communities transition toward reopening by expanding testing and contact tracing and
5 providing additional resources to residents, local hospitals, small businesses, and schools;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, specifically, the SMART Fund would deliver funding to state and local
8 governments, United States territories, and the District of Columbia in three equal tranches
9 based on a new formula that takes into consideration areas of the country with the greatest
10 need: one-third to eligible entities based on population size to ensure they each receive
11 additional federal resources to meet their growing needs, one-third to eligible entities based
12 on the number of COVID-19 cases relative to the U.S. population to target the urgent public
13 health challenge, and one-third to eligible entities based on state revenue losses relative to
14 pre-COVID-19 projections to target the urgent economic challenge.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 express support for the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART)
17 Fund as proposed by Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Senator Bob Menendez of New
18 Jersey for the purpose of helping states and local governments respond to the current public
19 health and economic crisis while maintaining essential services.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each
21 member of Louisiana's congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 70 Original

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Schexnayder

Expresses support for the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund as proposed by Senator Bill Cassidy of La. and Senator Bob Menendez of N.J. for the purpose of helping states and local governments respond to the current public health and economic crisis while maintaining essential services.