

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 would build upon the existing \$150 billion set aside in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief,

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

12 WHEREAS, Senators Cassidy and Menendez plan to expand eligibility for CARES

13 Act aid with the SMART Fund to include parishes and municipalities with populations of

14 fifty thousand people or more, which would increase direct participation and aid access to

15 parishes and municipalities that are currently excluded by the five hundred thousand person

16 population threshold in the CARES Act; and

17 WHEREAS, the SMART Fund legislation would also ensure that every eligible

18 entity receives additional funding, increase flexibility for states and local governments to use

19 the funds to replace revenue losses due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and target additional

20 funding toward coronavirus hot zones to directly combat the pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, Louisiana has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic, and
2 this is an important step toward assisting the state's communities in maintaining essential
3 services and protecting the state's financial future; and

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

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

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

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each
24 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 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Schexnayder

Expresses support for the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.