

## 115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1239

To authorize the Secretary of Defense to make grants to support the study of world languages in elementary schools and secondary schools.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 28, 2017

Mr. Price of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. Lance, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Young of Alaska, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Cole, and Ms. Titus) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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 authorize the Secretary of Defense to make grants to support the study of world languages in elementary schools and secondary schools.

- 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 "World Language Ad-
- 5 vancement and Readiness Act of 2017".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds the following:

- 1 (1) The national security of the United States 2 continues to depend on language readiness, in par-3 ticular among the seventeen agencies of the Intel-4 ligence Community.
  - (2) The levels of language proficiency required for national security necessitate long sequences of language training for personnel in the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense.
  - (3) The future national security and economic well-being of the United States will depend substantially on the ability of its citizens to communicate and compete by knowing the languages and cultures of other countries.
  - (4) The Federal Government has an interest in ensuring that the employees of its departments and agencies with national security responsibilities are prepared to meet the challenges of this changing international environment.
  - (5) The Federal Government also has an interest in taking actions to alleviate the problem of American students being inadequately prepared to meet the challenges posed by increasing global interaction among nations.
  - (6) American elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, and universities must place a new

- 1 emphasis on improving the teaching of foreign lan-
- 2 guages, area studies, counterproliferation studies,
- and other international fields to help meet those
- 4 challenges.

### 5 SEC. 3. WORLD LANGUAGE ADVANCEMENT AND READINESS

- 6 GRANTS.
- 7 (a) Program Authority.—The Secretary of De-
- 8 fense, in consultation with the Director of National Intel-
- 9 ligence and the Secretary of Education, shall carry out
- 10 a program under which the Secretary of Defense makes
- 11 grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agen-
- 12 cies and local educational agencies to pay the Federal
- 13 share of the cost of innovative model programs providing
- 14 for the establishment, improvement, or expansion of world
- 15 language study for elementary school and secondary school
- 16 students.
- 17 (b) DURATION.—Each grant under this Act shall be
- 18 awarded for a period of 3 years.
- 19 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EDU-
- 20 CATIONAL AGENCIES.—
- 21 (1) Grants to state educational agen-
- 22 CIES.—In awarding a grant under subsection (a) to
- a State educational agency, the Secretary of Defense
- shall support programs that promote systemic ap-

1	proaches to improving world language learning in
2	the State.
3	(2) Grants to local educational agen-
4	CIES.—In awarding a grant under subsection (a) to
5	a local educational agency, the Secretary of Defense
6	shall support programs that—
7	(A) show the promise of being continued
8	beyond the grant period;
9	(B) demonstrate approaches that can be
10	disseminated to and duplicated in other local
11	educational agencies; and
12	(C) may include a professional develop-
13	ment component.
14	(d) Federal Share.—
15	(1) In general.—Except as provided in para-
16	graph (2), the Federal share for each fiscal year
17	shall be 50 percent.
18	(2) Exception.—The Secretary of Defense
19	may determine the Federal share for any local edu-
20	cational agency that the Secretary determines does
21	not have adequate resources to pay the non-Federal
22	share.
23	(e) Allocation of Funds.—
24	(1) Not less than 75 percent of the funds made
25	available to carry out this Act for a fiscal year shall

- be used for the expansion of world language learning
  in elementary schools.
- 3 (2) Not less than 75 percent of the funds made 4 available to carry out this Act for a fiscal year shall 5 be used to support instruction in world languages 6 determined by the Secretary of Defense to be critical 7 to the national security interests of the United 8 States.
  - (3) The Secretary of Defense may reserve not more than 5 percent of funds made available to carry out this Act for a fiscal year to evaluate the efficacy of programs that receive grants under subsection (a)

### (f) Applications.—

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- (1) In General.—To be considered for a grant under subsection (a), a State educational agency or local educational agency shall submit an application to the Secretary of Defense at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require.
- (2) Special consideration.—The Secretary of Defense shall give special consideration to applications describing programs that—

1	(A) include intensive summer world lan-
2	guage programs for professional development of
3	world language teachers;
4	(B) link nonnative English speakers in the
5	community with the schools in order to promote
6	two-way language learning;
7	(C) promote the sequential study of a
8	world language for students, beginning in ele-
9	mentary schools;
10	(D) make effective use of technology, such
11	as computer-assisted instruction, language lab-
12	oratories, or distance learning, to promote
13	world language study;
14	(E) promote innovative activities, such as
15	dual language immersion, partial world lan-
16	guage immersion, or content-based instruction;
17	and
18	(F) are carried out through a consortium
19	comprised of the agency receiving the grant, an
20	elementary school or secondary school, and an
21	institution of higher education (as that term is
22	defined in section 102 of the Higher Education
23	Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).
24	SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.
25	In this Act:

1	(1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms "elementary
2	school", "local educational agency", "secondary
3	school", and "State educational agency" have the
4	meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Ele-
5	mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
6	U.S.C. 7801).
7	(2) World Language.—The term "world lan-
8	guage" means—
9	(A) any natural language other than
10	English, including—
11	(i) languages determined by the Sec-
12	retary of Defense to be critical to the na-
13	tional security interests of the United
14	States;
15	(ii) classical languages;
16	(iii) American sign language; and
17	(iv) Native American languages; and
18	(B) any language described in subpara-
19	graph (A) that is taught in combination with
20	English as part of a dual language or immer-
21	sion learning program.