

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To provide for an enhanced Coronavirus relief fund for units of government with a population of 500,000 or less, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for an enhanced Coronavirus relief fund for units of government with a population of 500,000 or less, and for other purposes.

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 “Coronavirus Commu-
5 nity Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND FOR UNITS OF GOV-**
7 **ERNMENT WITH A POPULATION OF 500,000 OR**
8 **LESS.**

9 Title VI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801
10 et seq.) (as added by section 5001(a) of the Coronavirus

1 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–
2 136)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

3 **“SEC. 602. CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND FOR UNITS OF GOV-
4 ERNMENT WITH A POPULATION OF 500,000 OR
5 LESS.**

6 “(a) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the
7 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated,
8 there are appropriated for making payments to units of
9 local Government with a population of 500,000 or less,
10 \$250,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

11 “(b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
12 retary shall pay to a unit of local government the relative
13 unit of local government population proportion amount de-
14 termined for such government under subsection (c)(4)
15 within 30 days after such government submits the certifi-
16 cation required by subsection (e).

17 “(c) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The maximum aggregate
19 amount paid under this section for fiscal year 2020
20 to units of local government in a State shall not ex-
21 ceed the relative population proportion amount de-
22 termined for the State under paragraph (2) for such
23 fiscal year.

24 “(2) RELATIVE POPULATION PROPORTION
25 AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the rel-

1 ative population proportion amount determined
2 under this paragraph for a State for fiscal year
3 2020 is the product of—

4 “(A) the amount appropriated under sub-
5 section (a) for fiscal year 2020; and

6 “(B) the relative State population propor-
7 tion determined under paragraph (3).

8 “(3) RELATIVE STATE POPULATION PROPOR-
9 TION DEFINED.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B),
10 with respect to a State, the relative State population
11 proportion is the quotient of—

12 “(A) the population of the State; and

13 “(B) the total population of all States.

14 “(4) RELATIVE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
15 POPULATION PROPORTION AMOUNT.—For purposes
16 of subsection (b), with respect to a unit of local gov-
17 ernment, the relative unit of local government popu-
18 lation proportion amount is equal to the product of
19 —

20 “(A) the relative population proportion
21 amount determined under paragraph (2) for the
22 State in which the unit of local government is
23 located; and

24 “(B) the quotient of—

1 “(i) the population of the unit of local
2 government; and

3 “(ii) the sum of the population of all
4 units of local government with a population
5 of 500,000 or less within the State that
6 submit the certification required by sub-
7 section (e) by the deadline specified in that
8 subsection.

9 “(5) DATA.—For purposes of this subsection,
10 the population of States and units of local govern-
11 ments shall be determined based on the most recent
12 year for which data are available from the Bureau
13 of the Census.

14 “(6) OTHER RELIEF.—The payments made
15 under this section shall be in addition to, and shall
16 not affect or reduce, payments made to units of local
17 government with a population that exceeds 500,000
18 under section 601.

19 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A unit of local government
21 shall use the funds provided under a payment made
22 under this section to cover only those costs of the
23 unit of local government that—

24 “(A) such government reasonably deems to
25 be necessary and directly or indirectly involve,

1 relate to, are, have been, or will be incurred due
2 to, or are, have been, or will be a response to
3 circumstances caused by, the public health
4 emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Dis-
5 ease 2019 (COVID-19); and

6 “(B) were incurred during the period that
7 begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on Decem-
8 ber 30, 2020.

9 “(2) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS.—If a
10 unit of local government determines it will not ex-
11 pend all of the funds paid to the government under
12 this section by the end of the period described in
13 paragraph (1)(B), the government may transfer the
14 unexpended portion of such funds to another unit of
15 local government in the State with a population of
16 500,000 or less. Funds transferred under this para-
17 graph—

18 “(A) shall be used by the unit of local gov-
19 ernment receiving such funds consistent with
20 the requirements of paragraph (1); and

21 “(B) shall be deemed to be a cost of the
22 unit of local government making the transfer.

23 “(e) CERTIFICATION.—In order to receive a payment
24 under this section, a unit of local government shall provide
25 the Secretary with a certification signed by the Chief Ex-

1 ecutive (or equivalent) for the unit of local government
2 that the local government's uses of the funds are or will
3 be consistent with subsection (d) not later than 15 days
4 after the date of enactment of this section.

5 “(f) INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT;
6 RECOUPMENT.—

7 “(1) OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.—The Inspector
8 General of the Department of the Treasury shall
9 conduct monitoring and oversight of the receipt, dis-
10 bursement, and use of funds made available under
11 this section.

12 “(2) RECOUPMENT.—If the Inspector General
13 of the Department of the Treasury determines that
14 a unit of local government has failed to comply with
15 subsection (d), the amount equal to the amount of
16 funds used in violation of such subsection shall be
17 booked as a debt of such entity owed to the Federal
18 Government. Amounts recovered under this sub-
19 section shall be deposited into the general fund of
20 the Treasury.

21 “(3) AUTHORITY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—
22 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to di-
23 minish the authority of any Inspector General, in-
24 cluding such authority as provided in the Inspector
25 General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

1 “(4) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding section
2 601(f)(3), the Inspector General of the Department
3 of the Treasury may use the amounts appropriated
4 under that section to carry out oversight and
5 recoupment activities under this section in addition
6 to the oversight and recoupment activities carried
7 out under section 601(f).

8 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) COSTS.—The term ‘costs’ includes, but is
10 not limited to, lost revenue, reimbursement for ex-
11 penses incurred before the date of enactment of this
12 section, and increases in costs reasonably believed to
13 be the direct or indirect result of, or direct or indi-
14 rect responses to circumstances caused by, the pub-
15 lic health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus
16 Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

17 “(2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘unit of
18 local government’ means any of the following that
19 has a population of 500,000 or below: a county, mu-
20 nicipality, town, township, village, parish, borough,
21 or other unit of general government below the State
22 level.

23 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
24 the Secretary of the Treasury.

1 “(4) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means the 50
2 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
3 of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands,
4 Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
5 Islands, and American Samoa.”.