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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Service to award grants to institutions of higher education for courses that use only publicly available digital resources for required reading assignments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FOSTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Service to award grants to institutions of higher education for courses that use only publicly available digital resources for required reading assignments, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “No Cost Educational
3 Resources Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANTS.**

5 Section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act
6 (20 U.S.C. 9162) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

9 (1)—

10 (i) by striking “nationwide and to”

11 and inserting “nationwide, to”; and

12 (ii) by inserting “, and to provide

13 funding for open educational reading mate-

14 rial courses” after “museums”;

15 (B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking

16 “and” at the end;

17 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-

18 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

19 (D) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(6) facilitating the adoption, adaption, and

21 creation of open educational reading materials, and

22 establishing more open educational reading material

23 courses, pursuant to subsection (d).”;

24 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “The Direc-

25 tor” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection

26 (d), the Director”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(d) OPEN EDUCATIONAL READING MATERIAL
3 COURSES.—

4 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sec-
5 tion:

6 “(A) The term ‘open educational reading
7 material’ means a free digital text that is pub-
8 licly available to be downloaded and redistrib-
9 uted.

10 “(B) The term ‘open educational reading
11 material course’ means a science, technology,
12 engineering, or math course offered by an insti-
13 tution of higher education that uses only open
14 educational reading materials as the form of the
15 required readings for the course.

16 “(2) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under
17 subsection (a)(6), an institution of higher education
18 shall submit to the Director an application that in-
19 cludes—

20 “(A) a description of how the institution of
21 higher education—

22 “(i) plans to facilitate the adoption,
23 adaption, and creation of open educational
24 reading materials by assigning leadership

1 of the grant implementation to library ad-
2 ministrators and librarians;

3 “(ii) has collaborated with science,
4 technology, engineering, and mathematics
5 department faculty in developing the appli-
6 cation and plans to continue to collaborate
7 with such faculty in implementing the
8 grant projects; and

9 “(iii) plans to collaborate with other
10 institutions of higher education to facilitate
11 the wider adoption, adaption, and creation
12 of open educational reading materials
13 throughout the higher education commu-
14 nity; and

15 “(B) a plan to review the quality of the
16 open educational reading materials used at such
17 institution of higher education.

18 “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under
19 subsection (a)(6), the Director shall give priority to
20 an institution of higher education that—

21 “(A) enrolls a high number of low-income
22 or minority students, or both; and

23 “(B) plans—

24 “(i) to assign a member of the faculty
25 and a librarian to coordinate the imple-

1 mentation of open educational reading ma-
2 terial courses;

3 “(ii) to use library resources to facili-
4 tate the use of open educational reading
5 materials;

6 “(iii) to use open educational reading
7 materials as the form of the required read-
8 ings for science, technology, engineering,
9 and mathematics courses with high enroll-
10 ment; and

11 “(iv) to provide incentives for faculty
12 to use only open educational reading mate-
13 rials as the form of the required readings
14 for their courses, such as monetary awards
15 or dedicated work time to adopt, adapt, or
16 create such materials.

17 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
18 date on which the first grant is awarded under sub-
19 section (a)(6), the Director shall submit to Congress
20 a report that includes—

21 “(A) the number of grants awarded under
22 subsection (a)(6);

23 “(B) an evaluation of the effect of such
24 grants on increasing the number of science,
25 technology, engineering, and mathematics

1 courses using open educational reading mate-
2 rials as the form of required readings for such
3 courses; and

4 “(C) an evaluation of the amount of money
5 saved by students who enroll in open edu-
6 cational reading material courses in comparison
7 to students who enroll in similar courses with
8 required readings that are only available by
9 purchase.”.