

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6819

To address the growing unreimbursed economic impact costs on communities that receive and host Compact migrants from the Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS (for himself, Mr. CASE, and Mr. KAHELE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To address the growing unreimbursed economic impact costs on communities that receive and host Compact migrants from the Freely Associated States, 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 “Compact of Free Asso-
5 ciation Host Communities Support Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.**

7 A Federal department, agency, independent agency,
8 office, or instrumentality may waive any requirement for

1 local matching funds (including in-kind contributions) oth-
2 erwise required to be provided by an affected jurisdiction
3 for any Federal grant requiring matching funds.

4 **SEC. 3. RECONCILIATION OF UNREIMBURSED IMPACT EX-**
5 **PENSES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—To address previously accrued
7 and unreimbursed impact expenses, at the request of the
8 Governor of an affected jurisdiction, the President may
9 reduce, release, or waive all or part of amounts owed by
10 the Government of an affected jurisdiction (or the govern-
11 ment’s autonomous agencies or instrumentalities) to any
12 department, agency, independent agency, office, or instru-
13 mentality of the United States.

14 (b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

15 (1) SUBSTANTIATION OF IMPACT COSTS.—Not
16 later than 120 days after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act, the Governor of each affected jurisdic-
18 tion shall submit to the Secretary a report, prepared
19 in consultation with an independent accounting firm,
20 substantiating unreimbursed economic impacts to
21 the affected jurisdiction of receiving compact mi-
22 grants from 2004 through 2021. Upon request of
23 the Secretary, the Governor of the affected jurisdic-
24 tion shall submit to the Secretary copies of all docu-

1 ments upon which the report submitted by that Gov-
2 ernor was based.

3 (2) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW AND COMMENT.—

4 Any reduction, release, or waiver under this Act
5 shall not take effect until 60 days after the Presi-
6 dent notifies Congress of the President’s intent to
7 approve a request of the Governor of each affected
8 jurisdiction. In exercising his authority under this
9 section and in determining whether to give final ap-
10 proval to a request, the President shall take into
11 consideration comments the President may receive
12 after Congressional review.

13 (c) ANNUAL LIMIT.—The President may reduce, re-
14 lease, or waive, under subsection (a), amounts totaling, in
15 the aggregate, not more than \$100,000,000 annually.

16 **SEC. 4. SUNSET.**

17 This authority of the Secretary under sections 2 and
18 3 shall terminate on that date that the Secretary certifies
19 that all the unreimbursed economic impact costs to af-
20 fected jurisdictions have been reconciled and repaid to
21 those affected jurisdictions.

22 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

23 For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions
24 apply:

1 (1) AFFECTED JURISDICTION.—The term “af-
2 fected jurisdiction” means any State, territory, or
3 possession of the United States that receives and
4 hosts a Compact migrant.

5 (2) COMPACT MIGRANT.—The term “compact
6 migrant” means a person, or their children under
7 the age of 18, admitted or resident pursuant to sec-
8 tion 141 of the U.S.–RMI or U.S.–FSM Compact,
9 or section 141 of the Palau Compact who, as of a
10 date referenced in the most recently published enu-
11 meration is a resident of an affected jurisdiction. As
12 used in this subsection, the term “resident” shall be
13 a person who has a ‘residence,’ as that term is de-
14 fined in section 101(a)(33) of the Immigration and
15 Nationality Act.

16 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

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