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

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express support for the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund as proposed by Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey for the purpose of helping states and local governments respond to the current public health and economic crisis while maintaining essential services.

WHEREAS, Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey have announced a bipartisan plan to deliver critical federal resources to the states and communities on the front lines of the COVID-19 fight; and

WHEREAS, the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund would build upon the existing $150 billion set aside in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help states and local governments; and

WHEREAS, Senators Cassidy and Menendez plan to expand eligibility for CARES Act aid with the SMART Fund to include parishes and municipalities with populations of fifty thousand people or more, which would increase direct participation and aid access to parishes and municipalities that are currently excluded by the five hundred thousand person population threshold in the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, the SMART Fund legislation would also ensure that every eligible entity receives additional funding, increase flexibility for states and local governments to use the funds to replace revenue losses due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and target additional funding toward coronavirus hot zones to directly combat the pandemic; and
WHEREAS, Louisiana has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic, and this is an important step toward assisting the state's communities in maintaining essential services and protecting the state's financial future; and

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each 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.