

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3790

To improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 2015

Ms. KELLY of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To improve science, technology, engineering, and
mathematics education, 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 “Diversity in Science
5 Technology and Nurturing Capable Educators Act” or the
6 “DISTANCE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. TEACHER RECRUITING.**

8 (a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to
9 encourage individuals educated in science, technology, en-
10 gineering, and mathematics to enter and continue in the

1 teaching profession, with the goal of attracting 10,000 of
2 America’s brightest students to the teaching profession
3 over the next 5 years.

4 (b) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Title II of the Higher Edu-
5 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating part C as part E;

7 (2) by redesignating section 261 as section 281;

8 and

9 (3) by inserting after part B the following new
10 part:

11 **“PART C—STEM TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS**

12 **“SEC. 261. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

13 “The Secretary shall award scholarships, on a com-
14 petitive basis and in accordance with this part, to students
15 who are enrolled in studies leading to bachelor’s degrees,
16 with concurrent certification as kindergarten, elementary,
17 and secondary school teachers, in science, technology, en-
18 gineering, and mathematics, and who have agreed to per-
19 form qualified service.

20 **“SEC. 262. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.**

21 “(a) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall de-
22 velop selection criteria that the Secretary will use to award
23 scholarships, and to renew those awards, based on estab-
24 lished measurements of merit available to secondary stu-

1 dents who wish to pursue degrees in science, technology,
2 engineering, and mathematics.

3 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—Any student desiring to receive
4 a scholarship under this part shall submit an application
5 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
6 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

7 “(c) DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS; RENEWAL.—
8 Scholarships shall be awarded for only one academic year
9 of study at a time, and shall be renewable on an annual
10 basis for the established length of the recipient’s academic
11 program, not to exceed 6 academic years. The Secretary
12 shall condition the renewal of scholarships on measures
13 of academic progress and achievement.

14 **“SEC. 263. QUALIFIED SERVICE REQUIREMENT.**

15 “(a) QUALIFIED SERVICE AGREEMENT.—Any stu-
16 dent who receives a scholarship under this part shall enter
17 into an agreement with the Secretary to complete no less
18 than 5 academic years of qualified service during a 7-year
19 period, to begin no later than 12 months following the
20 completion of a bachelor’s degree in science, technology,
21 engineering, or mathematics.

22 “(b) REQUIREMENT ENFORCED.—The Secretary
23 shall establish such requirements as the Secretary finds
24 necessary to ensure that recipients of scholarships under
25 this subsection who complete bachelor’s degrees in science,

1 technology, engineering, and mathematics, with teacher
2 certification, subsequently perform 5 academic years of
3 qualified service during a 7-year period, or repay the por-
4 tion of the scholarship received for which the recipient did
5 not perform the required qualified service, as determined
6 by the Secretary. The Secretary shall use any such repay-
7 ments to carry out additional activities under this part.

8 “(c) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section,
9 the term ‘qualified service’ means full-time employment at
10 a public or private kindergarten, elementary school, or sec-
11 ondary school as a teacher of a course in a science, tech-
12 nology, engineering, or mathematics field.

13 **“SEC. 264. AWARDS.**

14 “(a) SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.—The Secretary shall
15 provide each recipient with a scholarship in the amount
16 of up to \$20,000 to pay for the cost of attendance of the
17 student for each academic year the student is eligible to
18 receive the scholarship. The Secretary shall transfer such
19 funds to the institution of higher education at which the
20 recipient is enrolled.

21 “(b) BONUS AWARD.—

22 “(1) OPTION FOR BONUS AWARD.—Any student
23 who receives a scholarship under this part may elect
24 to enter into a bonus agreement with the Secretary,
25 in accordance with this subsection, for any academic

1 year during which the student receives a scholarship
2 under this part.

3 “(2) BONUS AGREEMENT.—A bonus agreement
4 under paragraph (1) shall provide that—

5 “(A) the student shall perform one aca-
6 demic year of the qualified service agreed to
7 under section 263(a) in a high-need local edu-
8 cational agency, as defined in section 200; and

9 “(B) the Secretary shall provide \$10,000,
10 in addition to the amount the student receives
11 under subsection (a), for each academic year in
12 which the student enters into such bonus agree-
13 ment.

14 “(3) SERVICE REQUIREMENT ENFORCED.—The
15 Secretary shall establish such requirements as the
16 Secretary finds necessary to ensure that recipients
17 of bonuses under this subsection fulfill the qualified
18 service requirement in a high-need local educational
19 agency, as defined in section 200, for a period of
20 time equivalent to the period for which the recipient
21 receives the bonus, or repays the portion of the
22 bonus received for which the recipient did not per-
23 form the required qualified service in a high-need
24 local educational agency, as determined by the Sec-
25 retary. The Secretary shall use any such repayments

1 to carry out additional activities under this sub-
2 section.

3 “(c) **MAXIMUM AWARD.**—The maximum award any
4 student may receive under this section for an academic
5 year shall be the student’s cost of attendance minus any
6 grant aid such student receives from sources other than
7 this section.

8 **“SEC. 265. REGULATIONS.**

9 “The Secretary is authorized to issue such regula-
10 tions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of
11 this part.”.

12 (c) **INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS FOR INTEGRATED DE-**
13 **GREE PROGRAMS.**—Title II of the Higher Education Act
14 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is further amended by
15 inserting after part C, as added by subsection (b) of this
16 section, the following new part:

17 **“PART D—INTEGRATED DEGREE PROGRAMS**

18 **“SEC. 271. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

19 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to
20 award grants to institutions of higher education, on a
21 competitive basis, in order to pay for the Federal share
22 of the cost of projects to establish, strengthen, and operate
23 4-year undergraduate degree programs through which stu-
24 dents may concurrently—

1 “(1) earn a bachelor’s degree in science, tech-
2 nology, engineering, or mathematics; and

3 “(2) be certified to teach kindergarten, elemen-
4 tary, or secondary school.

5 “(b) GRANT AMOUNT; AWARD PERIOD.—The Sec-
6 retary may award grants to no more than 50 institutions
7 of higher education each fiscal year, and a grant to an
8 institution for a fiscal year shall not exceed \$1,000,000.
9 Grants shall be awarded for only one fiscal year at a time,
10 and shall be renewable on an annual basis for up to 5
11 years.

12 **“SEC. 272. SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

13 “(a) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall set criteria to
14 evaluate the applications for grants under this part and
15 the projects proposed to establish, strengthen, and operate
16 4-year integrated undergraduate degree programs.

17 “(b) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—To
18 the extent practicable and consistent with the criteria
19 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make grants
20 under this part in such manner as to achieve an equitable
21 distribution of the grant funds throughout the United
22 States, considering geographic distribution, rural and
23 urban areas, and range and type of institutions.

1 **“SEC. 273. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

2 “In order to receive a grant under this part, an insti-
3 tution of higher education shall submit an application to
4 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
5 taining such information as the Secretary may require.
6 Such application shall include the following:

7 “(1) A description of the proposed project.

8 “(2) A demonstration of—

9 “(A) the commitment, including the finan-
10 cial commitment, of the institution for the pro-
11 posed project; and

12 “(B) the active support of the leadership of
13 the institution for the proposed project.

14 “(3) A description of how the proposed project
15 will be continued after Federal funds are no longer
16 awarded under this part for the project.

17 “(4) A plan for the evaluation of the project,
18 which shall include benchmarks to monitor progress
19 toward specific project objectives.

20 **“SEC. 274. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

21 “Each institution of higher education receiving a
22 grant under this part shall provide, from non-Federal
23 sources, an amount equal to the amount of the grant (in
24 cash or in-kind) to carry out the project supported by the
25 grant.

1 **“SEC. 275. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this part \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2016
4 through 2021.”.

○