

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4983

To simplify and streamline the information regarding institutions of higher education made publicly available by the Secretary of Education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2014

Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. KLINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To simplify and streamline the information regarding institutions of higher education made publicly available by the Secretary of 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 “Strengthening Trans-
5 parency in Higher Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COLLEGE DASHBOARD WEBSITE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 132 of the Higher
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “first-
2 time,”;

3 (B) in paragraph (3) in the matter pre-
4 ceeding subparagraph (A), by striking “first-
5 time,”; and

6 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “first-
7 time,”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “first-
10 time”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “first-
12 time”;

13 (3) by striking subsections (e) through (g), (j),
14 and (l);

15 (4) by redesignating subsections (h), (i), and
16 (k) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

17 (5) by striking subsection (d) (as so redesign-
18 ated) and inserting the following new subsection:

19 “(d) CONSUMER INFORMATION.—

20 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF TITLE IV INSTITUTION
21 INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall develop and
22 make publicly available a website to be known as the
23 ‘College Dashboard website’ in accordance with this
24 section and prominently display on such website, in
25 simple, understandable, and unbiased terms for the

1 most recent academic year for which satisfactory
2 data are available, the following information with re-
3 spect to each institution of higher education that
4 participates in a program under title IV:

5 “(A) A link to the website of the institu-
6 tion.

7 “(B) An identification of the type of insti-
8 tution as one of the following:

9 “(i) A four-year public institution of
10 higher education.

11 “(ii) A four-year private, nonprofit in-
12 stitution of higher education.

13 “(iii) A four-year private, for-profit
14 institution of higher education.

15 “(iv) A two-year public institution of
16 higher education.

17 “(v) A two-year private, nonprofit in-
18 stitution of higher education.

19 “(vi) A two-year private, for-profit in-
20 stitution of higher education.

21 “(vii) A less than two-year public in-
22 stitution of higher education.

23 “(viii) A less than two-year private,
24 nonprofit institution of higher education.

1 “(ix) A less than two-year private,
2 for-profit institution of higher education.

3 “(C) The number of students enrolled at
4 the institution—

5 “(i) as undergraduate students; and

6 “(ii) as graduate students, if applica-
7 ble.

8 “(D) The student-faculty ratio.

9 “(E) The percentage of degree-seeking or
10 certificate-seeking undergraduate students en-
11 rolled at the institution who obtain a degree or
12 certificate within—

13 “(i) the normal time for completion
14 of, or graduation from, the program in
15 which the student is enrolled;

16 “(ii) 150 percent of the normal time
17 for completion of, or graduation from, the
18 program in which the student is enrolled;
19 and

20 “(iii) 200 percent of the normal time
21 for completion of, or graduation from, the
22 program in which the student is enrolled.

23 “(F) The average net price per year for
24 undergraduate students and a link to the net
25 price calculator for such institution.

1 “(G) The average Federal student loan
2 debt incurred by an undergraduate student who
3 has obtained a certificate or degree from the in-
4 stitution and who borrowed Federal student
5 loans in the course of obtaining such certificate
6 or degree.

7 “(H) The cohort default rate (as defined in
8 section 435(m)) for such institution.

9 “(I) A link to national and regional data
10 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on starting
11 salaries in all major occupations.

12 “(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Sec-
13 retary shall publish on Internet webpages that are
14 linked to through the College Dashboard website for
15 the most recent academic year for which satisfactory
16 data is available the following information with re-
17 spect to each institution of higher education that
18 participates in a program under title IV:

19 “(A) ENROLLMENT.—

20 “(i) The percentages of male and fe-
21 male undergraduate students enrolled at
22 the institution.

23 “(ii) The percentages of under-
24 graduate students enrolled at the institu-
25 tion—

1 “(I) full-time; and

2 “(II) less than full-time.

3 “(iii) Of the undergraduate students
4 enrolled at the institution—

5 “(I) the percentage of such stu-
6 dents who are from the State in which
7 the institution is located;

8 “(II) the percentage of such stu-
9 dents who are from other States; and

10 “(III) the percentage of such stu-
11 dents who are international students.

12 “(iv) The percentages of students en-
13 rolled at the institution, disaggregated by
14 race and ethnic background.

15 “(v) The percentage of undergraduate
16 students enrolled at the institution who are
17 formally registered with the office of dis-
18 ability services of the institution (or the
19 equivalent office) as students with disabil-
20 ities, except that if such percentage is
21 three percent or less, the institution shall
22 report ‘three percent or less’.

23 “(vi) The percentage of students en-
24 rolled at the institution who are veterans
25 (as defined in section 480).

1 “(B) COMPLETION.—The information re-
2 quired under paragraph (1)(E), disaggregated
3 by—

4 “(i) recipients of a Federal Pell
5 Grant;

6 “(ii) recipients of a loan made under
7 part D (other than a Federal Direct Un-
8 subsidized Stafford Loan) who did not re-
9 ceive a Federal Pell Grant; and

10 “(iii) persons who did not receive a
11 Federal Pell Grant or a loan made under
12 part D (other than a Federal Direct Un-
13 subsidized Stafford Loan).

14 “(C) COSTS.—

15 “(i) The cost of attendance for full-
16 time undergraduate students enrolled in
17 the institution who live on campus.

18 “(ii) The cost of attendance for full-
19 time undergraduate students enrolled in
20 the institution who live off campus.

21 “(iii) The cost of tuition and fees for
22 full-time undergraduate students enrolled
23 in the institution.

24 “(iv) The cost of tuition and fees per
25 credit hour or credit hour equivalency for

1 undergraduate students enrolled in the in-
2 stitution less than full time.

3 “(v) In the case of a public institution
4 of higher education and notwithstanding
5 subsection (b)(1), the costs described in
6 clauses (i) and (ii) for—

7 “(I) full-time students enrolled in
8 the institution who are residents of
9 the State in which the institution is
10 located; and

11 “(II) full-time students enrolled
12 in the institution who are not resi-
13 dents of such State.

14 “(vi) The net price for students re-
15 ceiving Federal student financial aid under
16 title IV, disaggregated by the following in-
17 come categories for such students:

18 “(I) \$0 to \$30,000.

19 “(II) \$30,001 to \$48,000.

20 “(III) \$48,001 to \$75,000.

21 “(IV) \$75,001 to \$110,000.

22 “(V) Over \$110,000.

23 “(D) FINANCIAL AID.—

24 “(i) The average annual amount of a
25 Federal Pell Grant awarded to an under-

1 graduate student enrolled at such institu-
2 tion who receives a Federal Pell Grant.

3 “(ii) The average annual amount of
4 Federal student loans provided through
5 such institution to an undergraduate bor-
6 rower enrolled at such institution.

7 “(iii) The average annual grant
8 amount (including Federal, State, and in-
9 stitutional aid) awarded to an under-
10 graduate student enrolled at the institution
11 who receives financial aid.

12 “(iv) The percentage of under-
13 graduate students enrolled at the institu-
14 tion receiving Federal, State, and institu-
15 tional grants, student loans, and any other
16 type of student financial assistance known
17 by the institution, provided publicly or
18 through the institution, such as Federal
19 work-study funds.

20 “(v) The percentage of students en-
21 rolled at the institution receiving Federal
22 Pell Grants.

23 “(3) OTHER DATA MATTERS.—

24 “(A) COMPLETION DATA.—The Commis-
25 sioner of Education Statistics shall ensure that

1 the information required under paragraph
2 (1)(E) includes information with respect to all
3 students at an institution, including students
4 other than first-time, full-time students, in a
5 manner that the Commissioner considers appro-
6 priate.

7 “(B) ADJUSTMENT OF INCOME CAT-
8 EGORIES.—The Secretary may annually adjust
9 the range of each of the income categories de-
10 scribed in paragraph (2)(C)(vi) to account for a
11 change in the Consumer Price Index for All
12 Urban Consumers as determined by the Bureau
13 of Labor Statistics if the Secretary determines
14 an adjustment is necessary.

15 “(4) INSTITUTIONAL COMPARISON.—The Sec-
16 retary shall include on the College Dashboard
17 website a method for users to easily compare the in-
18 formation required under paragraphs (1) and (2) be-
19 tween institutions.

20 “(5) UPDATES.—

21 “(A) DATA.—The Secretary shall update
22 the College Dashboard website not less than an-
23 nually.

24 “(B) TECHNOLOGY AND FORMAT.—The
25 Secretary shall regularly assess the format and

1 technology of the College Dashboard website
2 and make any changes or updates that the Sec-
3 retary considers appropriate.

4 “(6) CONSUMER TESTING.—In developing and
5 maintaining the College Dashboard website, the Sec-
6 retary shall conduct consumer testing with appro-
7 priate persons, including current and prospective col-
8 lege students, family members of such students, in-
9 stitutions of higher education, and experts, to ensure
10 that the College Dashboard website is usable and
11 easily understandable.

12 “(7) PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE LINKS TO
13 PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AFTER SUBMISSION OF
14 FAFSA.—The Secretary shall provide to each stu-
15 dent that submits a Free Application for Federal
16 Student Aid described in section 483 a link to the
17 webpage of the College Dashboard website that con-
18 tains the information required under paragraph (1)
19 for each institution of higher education such student
20 includes on such Application.

21 “(8) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Sec-
22 retary, in consultation with each appropriate head of
23 a department or agency of the Federal Government,
24 shall ensure to the greatest extent practicable that
25 any information related to higher education that is

1 published by such department or agency is con-
2 sistent with the information published on the College
3 Dashboard website.

4 “(9) REFERENCES TO COLLEGE NAVIGATOR
5 WEBSITE.—Any reference in this Act to the College
6 Navigator website shall be considered a reference to
7 the College Dashboard website.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Higher Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended
10 by subsection (a) of this section, is further amended—

11 (1) in section 131(h) (20 U.S.C. 1015(h)), by
12 striking “College Navigator” and inserting “College
13 Dashboard”; and

14 (2) in section 132(a) (20 U.S.C. 1015a(a)), by
15 striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following
16 new paragraph:

17 “(1) COLLEGE DASHBOARD WEBSITE.—The
18 term ‘College Dashboard website’ means the College
19 Dashboard website required under subsection (d).”.

20 (c) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Education
21 shall develop and publish the College Dashboard website
22 required under section 132 of the Higher Education Act
23 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a), as amended by subsections
24 (a) and (b) of this section, not later than one year after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (d) COLLEGE NAVIGATOR WEBSITE MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary shall maintain the College Navigator website required under section 132 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a), as in effect the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, in the manner required under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as in effect on such day, until the College Dashboard website referred to in subsection (c) is complete and publicly available on the Internet.

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