

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5560

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a grant program for undergraduate students with financial need to assist such students in completing degrees at institutions of higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a grant program for undergraduate students with financial need to assist such students in completing degrees at institutions of higher education.

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 “Helping College Stu-
5 dents Cross the Finish Line Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE AWARDS TO**
2 **UNDERGRADUATE AND VOCATIONAL STU-**
3 **DENTS WITH FINANCIAL NEED TO ASSIST IN**
4 **COMPLETION OF DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE**
5 **PROGRAMS.**

6 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
7 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended by inserting
8 after subpart 7 the following new subpart:

9 **“Subpart 8—Grants to Institutions To Provide**
10 **Awards to Undergraduate and Vocational Stu-**
11 **dents With Financial Need To Assist in Comple-**
12 **tion of Degree and Certificate Programs**

13 **“SEC. 420. GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE AWARDS**
14 **TO UNDERGRADUATE AND VOCATIONAL STU-**
15 **DENTS WITH FINANCIAL NEED TO ASSIST IN**
16 **COMPLETION OF DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE**
17 **PROGRAMS.**

18 “(a) GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FINANCIAL
19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall award
20 grants to institutions of higher education to establish pro-
21 grams of financial assistance for students in accordance
22 with this section.

23 “(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

24 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—An institution of high-
25 er education receiving a grant under subsection (a)
26 shall establish a financial assistance program to

1 award funds to not less than 100 eligible students
2 per academic year in accordance with this sub-
3 section.

4 “(2) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—A student shall
5 be eligible for an award under a financial assistance
6 program established by an institution of higher edu-
7 cation in accordance with this subsection if—

8 “(A) such student is enrolled as an under-
9 graduate or vocational student at such institu-
10 tion on a not less than half-time basis;

11 “(B) such student is academically able to
12 complete the degree or certificate program for
13 which such student is enrolled within an aca-
14 demic year;

15 “(C) such student is in good academic
16 standing at such institution (as determined by
17 such institution) at the time of the distribution
18 of the award;

19 “(D) in the case of a student who pre-
20 viously received an award under this section,
21 such student maintained good academic stand-
22 ing during the academic period for which the
23 student received such previous award under this
24 section;

1 “(E) such student has an outstanding tui-
2 tion payment due to such institution and is un-
3 able to fully pay the amount due; and

4 “(F) the institution determines that with-
5 out financial assistance, such student will dis-
6 continue the degree or certificate program for
7 which such student is enrolled due to an inabil-
8 ity to pay tuition.

9 “(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of an
10 award to a student under a financial assistance pro-
11 gram established by an institution of higher edu-
12 cation in accordance with this subsection for a se-
13 mester or equivalent shall be the lesser of—

14 “(A) \$1,000; or

15 “(B) the amount of tuition such institution
16 determines the student is unable to pay for
17 such semester or equivalent.

18 “(4) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF GRANTS.—A
19 student may only receive an award under a financial
20 assistance program established by an institution of
21 higher education in accordance with this subsection
22 for a total of two semesters or the equivalent of two
23 semesters.

24 “(5) INFORMATION ON OTHER FINANCIAL AS-
25 SISTANCE.—

1 “(A) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—Each in-
2 stitution of higher education receiving a grant
3 under subsection (a) shall provide information
4 to each covered student attending such institu-
5 tion on financial assistance available from any
6 source other than this section.

7 “(B) COVERED STUDENT DEFINED.—In
8 this paragraph, the term ‘covered student’
9 means a student receiving an award under a fi-
10 nancial assistance program established by an
11 institution of higher education in accordance
12 with this subsection in an amount that does not
13 fully pay an outstanding tuition payment due to
14 such institution.

15 “(c) FINANCIAL LITERACY SURVEY.—The Secretary
16 shall create, and each student receiving an award under
17 a financial assistance program established by an institu-
18 tion of higher education in accordance with subsection (b)
19 shall complete, an online survey concerning financial lit-
20 eracy. Such survey shall include matters relating to budg-
21 eting and saving, student loan debt, and career planning.

22 “(d) REPORTS.—

23 “(1) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
24 Each institution of higher education receiving a
25 grant under subsection (a) shall annually submit to

1 the Secretary a report containing, for the academic
2 year preceding the date of the submission of such re-
3 port—

4 “(A) the number of students enrolled at
5 such institution that received an award under a
6 financial assistance program established by
7 such institution in accordance with subsection
8 (b);

9 “(B) the number of such students who
10 completed the degree or certificate program in
11 which such students were enrolled during such
12 academic year;

13 “(C) the number of such students who, fol-
14 lowing completion of the degree or certificate
15 program in which such students were enrolled,
16 subsequently enrolled in a degree or certificate
17 program at a higher level;

18 “(D) the number of such students who,
19 following completion of the degree or certificate
20 program in which such students were enrolled,
21 subsequently obtained full-time employment and
22 the average salary for such students; and

23 “(E) any other information that the Sec-
24 retary considers necessary.

1 “(2) SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall annu-
2 ally submit to Congress a report on the implementa-
3 tion of this section. Such report shall include—

4 “(A) the aggregate data submitted by all
5 institutions of higher education in accordance
6 with paragraph (1);

7 “(B) an analysis of the grant program
8 under this section and any suggestions for im-
9 proving such program; and

10 “(C) any other information that the Sec-
11 retary considers necessary.

12 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2015
15 through 2020.”.

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