

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7313

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve programs for minority students in STEM fields, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2022

Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. BOWMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve programs for minority students in STEM fields, 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 “Supporting Diverse  
5 STEM Students Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MINORITY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IMPROVE-**  
2 **MENT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.—Section 353(b) of  
4 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067e(b))  
5 is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
9 period and inserting a semicolon; and

10 (C) by adding the following at the end:

11 “(C) providing direct financial assistance to  
12 students who are underrepresented in STEM; or

13 “(D) improving institutional capacity to pro-  
14 vide—

15 “(i) guidance counseling and academic ad-  
16 vising;

17 “(ii) work-study and work-based learning  
18 opportunities that are aligned to a student’s  
19 chosen field of study;

20 “(iii) faculty, peer, and near-peer  
21 mentorship;

22 “(iv) summer bridge programs;

23 “(v) undergraduate research opportunities;

24 or

25 “(vi) individualized academic support and  
26 tutoring.”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or”;

3 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the  
4 period and inserting “; or”; and

5 (C) by adding the following at the end:

6 “(E) any of the activities described in subpara-  
7 graphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).”.

8 (b) STEM FIELDS.—Section 356 of the Higher Edu-  
9 cation Act of 1965 is amended by striking “science” and  
10 inserting “science (including computer science)”.

11 (c) CROSS-PROGRAM AND CROSS-AGENCY COOPERA-  
12 TION.—Section 363 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
13 (20 U.S.C. 1067i) is amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 363. CROSS-PROGRAM AND CROSS-AGENCY COOPERA-**  
15 **TION.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall cooperate  
17 and consult with other programs within the Department  
18 and within Federal, State, and private agencies which  
19 carry out programs to improve the quality of science, com-  
20 puter science, mathematics, and engineering education.

21 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the  
22 date of enactment of Supporting Diverse STEM Students  
23 Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with all Federal  
24 agencies that have STEM education activities, prepare  
25 and submit to the authorizing committees a coordination

1 strategy report on expanding access and opportunity for  
2 postsecondary students who are underrepresented in  
3 science and engineering that—

4 “(1) outlines efforts to coordinate Federal grant  
5 programs for these populations to more effectively  
6 achieve the Federal Government’s objective to diver-  
7 sify the STEM fields; and

8 “(2) outlines strategies to align Federal Gov-  
9 ernment research opportunities, internships, and de-  
10 ferred hiring programs from minority institutions re-  
11 ceiving a grant under this part for students who are  
12 underrepresented in science and engineering.”.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 365 of the Higher Edu-  
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “science and  
16 engineering” and inserting “STEM”;

17 (2) by striking paragraph (4) and redesignating  
18 paragraphs (5) through (9) as paragraphs (4)  
19 through (8), respectively;

20 (3) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

21 (A) by striking “science and engineering”  
22 and inserting “STEM”; and

23 (B) by striking “scientists and engineers”  
24 in both places and inserting “individuals in  
25 STEM”; and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(9) STEM.—The term ‘STEM’ means the  
3 fields of science (including computer science), tech-  
4 nology, engineering, and mathematics as described  
5 in section 356(a).”.

6 (e) OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 480(i)  
7 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
8 1087vv(i)), as amended by section 702 of the FAFSA  
9 Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law  
10 116–260), is further amended by adding at the end the  
11 following:

12 “(6) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), direct fi-  
13 nancial assistance provided to the student under sec-  
14 tion 353(b)(1)(C), shall not be treated as other fi-  
15 nancial assistance for purposes of section 471(3).”.

16 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
17 this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023, and as if in-  
18 cluded in the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of divi-  
19 sion FF of Public Law 116–260).

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