

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7384

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience improvements at certain institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2022

Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SIRES, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. BOWMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience improvements at certain institutions of higher 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 “Energy Conservation
5 Opportunities on Campus Act” or the “ECO Campus
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR UNIVERSITIES.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—Not
3 later than one year after the date of enactment of this
4 Act, the Secretary of Energy (in this section referred to
5 as the “Secretary”) shall establish a program to award,
6 on a competitive basis to covered universities, grants to
7 support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate
8 resilience improvements at such universities.

9 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
10 under the Program, a covered university shall submit to
11 the Secretary an application in such form, at such time,
12 and containing such information as the Secretary deter-
13 mines appropriate.

14 (c) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants
15 under the Program, the Secretary shall—

16 (1) give priority to covered universities that are
17 minority-serving institutions; and

18 (2) award grants in a manner that ensures geo-
19 graphically diverse recipients.

20 (d) ELIGIBLE USES.—A grant awarded to a covered
21 university under the Program may be used for the fol-
22 lowing projects on the campus of such university:

23 (1) The purchase and installation of solar pan-
24 els.

25 (2) The purchase, or contracting for use, of
26 electric vehicles.

1 (3) The purchase and installation of electric ve-
2 hicle charging infrastructure.

3 (4) The purchase and installation of energy-effi-
4 cient windows.

5 (5) Construction, repairs, or renovations to
6 buildings to improve occupant health, including con-
7 struction, repairs, or renovations that improve air
8 quality or ventilation.

9 (6) Construction, repairs, or renovations to
10 buildings to improve climate resilience.

11 (7) Investigation and analysis with respect to
12 energy efficiency and climate resilience improve-
13 ments.

14 (8) The purchase and installation of microgrid
15 systems.

16 (9) The purchase and installation of energy
17 storage systems.

18 (10) Repairs or renovations to district energy
19 systems.

20 (e) LIMITATIONS.—

21 (1) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant
22 awarded under the Program may not exceed
23 \$10,000,000.

24 (2) TRAINING COSTS.—A covered university
25 awarded a grant under the Program may use not

1 more than ten percent of grant funds for training
2 costs related to a project carried out with grant
3 funds.

4 (f) REPORTING.—Not later than three years after the
5 date on which a covered university receives a grant under
6 the Program, the university shall submit to the Secretary
7 a report detailing the use of grant funds.

8 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) CLIMATE RESILIENCE.—The term “climate
10 resilience” means the ability to anticipate, prepare
11 for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or dis-
12 turbances related to climate.

13 (2) COVERED UNIVERSITY.—The term “covered
14 university” means the following:

15 (A) A public institution of higher edu-
16 cation, as defined in section 101(a) of the
17 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
18 1001(a)).

19 (B) A public Tribal college or university,
20 as defined in section 316 of the Higher Edu-
21 cation Act.

22 (C) A public institution of higher education
23 located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of
24 the United States, Guam, American Samoa,

1 and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
2 iana Islands.

3 (3) ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM.—The term “en-
4 ergy storage system” means any system, equipment,
5 facility, or technology that uses a mechanical, elec-
6 trical, chemical, electrochemical, or thermal process
7 to store energy that was generated at an earlier time
8 for use at a later time, including any generated en-
9 ergy that would otherwise be wasted.

10 (4) MICROGRID SYSTEM.—The term “microgrid
11 system” means an integrated energy system that
12 consists of interconnected loads and distributed en-
13 ergy resources within clearly defined electrical
14 boundaries that—

15 (A) acts as a single controllable entity; and

16 (B) can operate while connected to, and
17 while disconnected from, the national or local
18 electric grid.

19 (5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
20 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
21 tution described in section 371(a) of the Higher
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

23 (6) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
24 the grant program established under subsection (a).

1 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$76,100,000,000.

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