

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 799

To authorize the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to establish a pilot program to make grants to historically Black colleges and universities to provide educational programs to offenders who have recently been, or will soon be, released from incarceration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Mr. HILL (for himself, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mrs. LOVE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to establish a pilot program to make grants to historically Black colleges and universities to provide educational programs to offenders who have recently been, or will soon be, released from incarceration, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Shift Back to Society
3 Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. OFFENDER EDUCATION RE-ENTRY PILOT PRO-**
5 **GRAM.**

6 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Attorney General, in con-
7 sultation with the Secretary of Education, shall establish
8 a pilot program for 5 years which makes grants to not
9 more than 10 historically Black colleges and universities
10 to provide educational programming to eligible offenders
11 in order to facilitate re-entry into the community.

12 (b) **APPLICATION.**—The chief executive officer of a
13 historically Black college or university seeking a grant
14 under this section shall submit to the Attorney General
15 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
16 taining such information as the Attorney General may rea-
17 sonably require.

18 (c) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—The portion of the costs of
19 a program provided by a grant under subsection (a) may
20 not exceed 50 percent. The recipient of a grant under this
21 section may meet the matching requirement under this
22 subsection by making in-kind contributions of goods or
23 services that are directly related to the purpose for which
24 such grant was awarded.

25 (d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) The term “educational programming”
2 means—

3 (A) general education development (GED)
4 programming; or

5 (B) educational courses which are transfer-
6 able for course credit at that historically Black
7 college or university.

8 (2) The term “eligible offender” means an indi-
9 vidual who was convicted of a criminal offense and—

10 (A) has been released from incarceration
11 for not longer than one year; or

12 (B) is scheduled to be released from incar-
13 ceration in not longer than one year.

14 (3) The term “historically Black college or uni-
15 versity” has the meaning given the term “part B in-
16 stitution” under section 322(2) of the Higher Edu-
17 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

18 (4) The term “institution of higher education”
19 has the meaning given that term in section 101 of
20 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
21 1001).

22 (e) PROHIBITION ON NEW AUTHORIZATION OF
23 FUNDS.—This section shall be carried out using amounts
24 otherwise appropriated or made available to the Depart-

1 ment of Justice. No additional funds are authorized to be
2 appropriated to carry out this section.

3 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.**

4 Not later than 270 days after the conclusion of the
5 pilot program under section 2, the Comptroller General
6 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report
7 which describes the results of the pilot program.

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