

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1998

To improve college affordability.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2015

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-  
cation, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To improve college affordability.

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 “Creating Higher Edu-  
5 cation Affordability Necessary to Compete Economically  
6 Act” or the “Middle Class CHANCE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF A FED-**  
8 **ERAL PELL GRANT.**

9 Section 401(b)(7)(C) of the Higher Education Act of  
10 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(C)) is amended—

1 (1) in clause (i)(I), by striking “clause (iv)(II)”  
2 and inserting “clause (v)(II)”;

3 (2) in clause (ii)—

4 (A) in the heading, by striking “THROUGH  
5 2017–2018” and inserting “AND 2015–2016”;

6 (B) in the matter preceding subclause (I),  
7 by striking “through 2017–2018” and inserting  
8 “and 2015–2016”; and

9 (C) in subclause (I), by striking “clause  
10 (iv)(II)” and inserting “clause (v)(II)”;

11 (3) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as  
12 clauses (iv) and (v), respectively;

13 (4) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

14 “(iii) AWARD YEAR 2016–2017.—For  
15 award year 2016–2017, the amount deter-  
16 mined under this subparagraph for pur-  
17 poses of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be  
18 equal to—

19 “(I) \$9,140, reduced by

20 “(II) the maximum Federal Pell  
21 Grant for which a student was eligi-  
22 ble, as specified in the last enacted  
23 appropriation Act applicable to award  
24 year 2016–2017; and

1 “(III) rounded to the nearest  
2 \$5.”; and

3 (5) by striking clause (iv), as redesignated by  
4 paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

5 “(iv) SUBSEQUENT AWARD YEARS.—  
6 For award year 2017–2018 and each sub-  
7 sequent award year, the amount deter-  
8 mined under this subparagraph for pur-  
9 poses of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be  
10 equal to—

11 “(I) the amount determined  
12 under this subparagraph for the pre-  
13 ceding award year; increased by

14 “(II) a percentage equal to the  
15 annual adjustment percentage for the  
16 award year for which the amount  
17 under this subparagraph is being de-  
18 termined; and

19 “(III) rounded to the nearest  
20 \$5.”.

21 **SEC. 3. YEAR-ROUND FEDERAL PELL GRANT STUDENTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(b) of the Higher  
23 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)) is amended  
24 by adding at the end the following:

1       “(8)(A) In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible student’  
2 means a student who—

3           “(i) has received a Federal Pell Grant for an  
4 award year and is enrolled in an eligible program for  
5 1 or more additional payment periods during the  
6 same award year that are not otherwise fully covered  
7 by the student’s Federal Pell Grant;

8           “(ii) continues to meets all eligibility require-  
9 ments to receive a Federal Pell Grant under this  
10 section; and

11          “(iii) attends an institution of higher education  
12 on average, not less than a half-time basis.

13       “(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
14 subsection, the Secretary shall award an additional Fed-  
15 eral Pell Grant to an eligible student for the additional  
16 payment periods during an award year that are not other-  
17 wise fully covered by the student’s Federal Pell Grant for  
18 the award year.

19       “(C) In the case of a student receiving more than  
20 one Federal Pell Grant in a single award year under sub-  
21 paragraph (B), the total amount of the Federal Pell  
22 Grants awarded to such student for the award year shall  
23 not exceed an amount equal to 150 percent of the total  
24 maximum Federal Pell Grant for such award year cal-  
25 culated in accordance with paragraph (7)(C)(v)(II).

1       “(D) Any period of study covered by a Federal Pell  
2 Grant awarded under subparagraph (B) shall be included  
3 in determining a student’s duration limit under subsection  
4 (c)(5).

5       “(9) In any case where an eligible student is receiving  
6 a Federal Pell Grant for a payment period that spans 2  
7 award years, the Secretary shall allow the eligible institu-  
8 tion in which the student is enrolled to determine the  
9 award year to which the additional period shall be as-  
10 signed.”.

11       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
12 subsection (a) shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

13 **SEC. 4. PELL GRANT DURATION LIMIT.**

14       Section 401(c)(5) of the Higher Education Act of  
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(c)(5)) is amended by striking “12  
16 semesters” and inserting “15 semesters” each place the  
17 term appears.

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