

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2331

To establish the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Innovation Fund.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 13, 2014

Mrs. HAGAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Innovation Fund.

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 “Historically Black Col-
5 leges and Universities Innovation Fund Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVER-**
7 **SITIES INNOVATION FUND.**

8 Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 1133 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

1 **“PART F—HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND**
2 **UNIVERSITIES INNOVATION FUND**

3 **“SEC. 786. PURPOSE.**

4 “It is the purpose of this part to assist historically
5 Black colleges and universities in planning, developing, im-
6 plementing, validating, and replicating innovations that
7 provide solutions to persistent challenges in enabling eco-
8 nomically and educationally disadvantaged students to en-
9 roll in, persist through, and graduate from historically
10 Black colleges and universities, including initiatives de-
11 signed to—

12 “(1) improve student achievement at histori-
13 cally Black colleges and universities;

14 “(2) increase successful recruitment at histori-
15 cally Black colleges and universities of—

16 “(A) students from low-income families of
17 all races;

18 “(B) adults; and

19 “(C) military-affiliated students;

20 “(3) increase the rate at which students en-
21 rolled in historically Black colleges and universities
22 make adequate or accelerated progress towards
23 graduation and successfully graduate from such col-
24 leges and universities;

25 “(4) increase the number of students pursuing
26 and completing degrees in science, technology, engi-

1 neering, and mathematics at historically Black col-
2 leges and universities and pursuing graduate work in
3 such fields;

4 “(5) enhance the quality of teacher preparation
5 programs offered by historically Black colleges and
6 universities;

7 “(6) redesign course offerings and institutional
8 student aid programs to help students obtain mean-
9 ingful employment; and

10 “(7) expand the effective use of technology at
11 historically Black colleges and universities.

12 **“SEC. 787. DEFINITIONS.**

13 “In this part:

14 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
15 tity’ means—

16 “(A) a part B institution as defined in sec-
17 tion 322(2);

18 “(B) a part B institution, as so defined,
19 applying in consortium with one or more other
20 institutions of higher education;

21 “(C) a part B institution, as so defined,
22 applying in consortium with one or more private
23 nonprofit organizations;

1 “(D) a part B institution, as so defined,
2 applying in consortium with one or more local
3 educational agencies; or

4 “(E) a part B institution, as so defined,
5 applying in a consortium that includes entities
6 described in more than one of paragraphs (2),
7 (3), or (4).

8 “(2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
9 VERSITY.—The term ‘historically Black college or
10 university’ has the meaning given the term ‘part B
11 institution’ as defined in section 322(2).

12 **“SEC. 788. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—With funds made available for
14 this part under section 792, the Secretary shall make com-
15 petitive planning and implementation grants, as described
16 in subsections (b) and (c), to eligible entities to enable
17 such entities to plan for the implementation of, in the case
18 of a planning grant, and implement, in the case of an im-
19 plementation grant, innovations authorized under this
20 part and to support the implementation, validation, scal-
21 ing up, and replication of such innovations.

22 “(b) PLANNING GRANTS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not
24 more than \$10,500,000 of the funds made available
25 under section 792 to award planning grants to eligi-

1 ble entities to plan, design, and develop innovations
2 that address the purpose of this part as described in
3 section 786.

4 “(2) DURATION.—A planning grant authorized
5 under this subsection shall be for the duration of 1
6 year.

7 “(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Each planning grant
8 authorized under this subsection shall be of an
9 amount that is not more than \$100,000.

10 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With funds made available
12 for this part under section 792, the Secretary shall
13 award implementation grants to eligible entities to
14 further develop, pilot, field-test, implement, docu-
15 ment, validate, and, as applicable, scale up and rep-
16 licate innovations that address the purpose of this
17 part as described in section 786.

18 “(2) DURATION.—An implementation grant au-
19 thorized under this subsection shall be for a dura-
20 tion of 5 years, conditional after 3 years upon the
21 eligible entity achieving satisfactory progress to-
22 wards carrying out the educational innovations, ac-
23 tivities, and projects described in section 789(d), as
24 determined by the Secretary.

1 “(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each planning grant
2 authorized under this subsection shall be of an
3 amount that is not more than \$10,000,000.

4 “(d) CONSORTIUM ENTITIES.—

5 “(1) FISCAL AGENT.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligi-
7 ble entity described in subparagraph (B), (C),
8 (D), or (E) of section 787(1), each part B insti-
9 tution, institution of higher education, private
10 nonprofit organization, or educational agency
11 that applied in consortium for a grant under
12 this part shall agree on 1 such member of such
13 eligible entity to serve as the fiscal agent of
14 such entity.

15 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The fiscal agent
16 of an eligible entity, as described in subpara-
17 graph (A), shall act on behalf of such entity in
18 performing the financial duties of such entity.

19 “(C) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—The agree-
20 ment described in subparagraph (A) shall be in
21 writing and signed by each part B institution,
22 institution of higher education, private non-
23 profit organization, or educational agency that
24 applied in consortium with the selected fiscal
25 agent for a grant under this part.

1 “(2) SUBGRANTS.—In the case of an entity de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of sec-
3 tion 787(1) that receives a grant under this part,
4 the fiscal agent for such entity (as described in
5 paragraph (1)) may make subgrants to another part
6 B institution, institution of higher education, private
7 nonprofit organization, or educational agency that
8 applied in consortium for such grant with such fiscal
9 agent.

10 “(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—

11 “(1) PLANNING GRANTS.—The Federal share of
12 the total cost of carrying out a project funded by a
13 planning grant authorized under subsection (b) shall
14 be 100 percent of such total cost.

15 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of
17 the total cost of carrying out a project funded
18 by an implementation grant authorized under
19 subsection (c) shall be not more than 85 per-
20 cent of such total cost.

21 “(B) REMAINING COST.—An eligible entity
22 that receives a grant under subsection (c) shall
23 provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount
24 equal to not less than 15 percent of the total
25 cost of carrying out the project funded by the

1 grant. Such amount may be provided by in cash
2 or in kind contributions.

3 **“SEC. 789. APPLICATIONS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a
5 grant under this part shall submit an application to the
6 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
7 such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

8 “(b) CONSORTIUM ENTITIES.—An application under
9 this section for a planning grant or an implementation
10 grant by an eligible entity that is a part B institution ap-
11 plying for a grant under this part in consortium with an-
12 other institution of higher education, private nonprofit or-
13 ganization, or educational agency, as described in sub-
14 paragraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section 787(1), shall
15 include the written agreement described in section
16 788(d)(1)(C).

17 “(c) PLANNING GRANTS.—The Secretary shall en-
18 sure that the application requirements under this section
19 for a planning grant authorized under section 788(b) in-
20 clude, in addition to the requirement under subsection (b),
21 only the minimal requirements that are necessary to re-
22 view the proposed process of an eligible entity for the plan-
23 ning and development of one or more educational innova-
24 tions that address the purpose of this part as described
25 in section 786.

1 “(d) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An application
2 under this section for an implementation grant authorized
3 under section 788(c) shall include, in addition to the re-
4 quirement under subsection (b), descriptions of—

5 “(1) each educational innovation that the eligi-
6 ble entity will implement using the funds made avail-
7 able by such grant, including, as applicable, a de-
8 scription of the evidence supporting the effectiveness
9 of each such innovation;

10 “(2) how each educational innovation proposed
11 to be implemented under such grant will address the
12 purpose of this part, as described in section 786,
13 and how each such innovation will further the insti-
14 tutional or organizational missions of, as applicable,
15 the part B institution and each institution of higher
16 education, private nonprofit organization, and edu-
17 cational agency applying in consortium with such
18 part B institution for such grant;

19 “(3) the specific activities that the eligible enti-
20 ty will carry out with funds made available by such
21 grant, including, for a consortium application sub-
22 mitted by an eligible entity described in subpara-
23 graph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section 787(1), a de-
24 scription of the activities that the part B institution
25 and each institution of higher education, private

1 nonprofit organization, and educational agency of
2 the consortium will carry out and a description of
3 the capacity of each such institution, organization,
4 and educational agency to carry out such activities;

5 “(4) the performance measures that the eligible
6 entity will use to track its progress in implementing
7 each proposed educational innovation, including a
8 description of how the entity will implement such
9 performance measures and use information on per-
10 formance to make adjustments and improvements to
11 its implementation activities, as needed, over the
12 course of the grant period;

13 “(5) how the eligible entity will provide the
14 amount required under section 788(e)(2)(B);

15 “(6) how the eligible entity will provide for an
16 independent evaluation of the implementation and
17 impact of the projects funded by such grant that in-
18 cludes—

19 “(A) an interim report (evaluating the
20 progress made in the first 3 years of the grant);
21 and

22 “(B) a final report (completed at the end
23 of the grant period); and

1 “(7) the plan of the eligible entity for con-
2 tinuing each proposed educational innovation after
3 the grant period has ended.

4 **“SEC. 790. PRIORITY.**

5 “‘In awarding grants under this part, the Secretary
6 shall give priority to applications that address issues of
7 major national need, including—

8 “(1) educational innovations designed to in-
9 crease the number of African-American males who
10 attain a postsecondary degree;

11 “(2) innovative partnerships between part B in-
12 stitutions and local educational agencies that are de-
13 signed to increase the enrollment and successful
14 completion of historically underrepresented popu-
15 lations in higher education;

16 “(3) educational innovations that bring together
17 the resources of part B institutions and partner in-
18 stitutions in support of economic development, entre-
19 preneurship, and the commercialization of funded re-
20 search and the development of an innovation eco-
21 system on postsecondary school campuses;

22 “(4) educational innovations that support devel-
23 oping programs and initiatives to support under-
24 graduate and graduate programs in science, tech-
25 nology, engineering, and mathematics; and

1 “(5) educational innovations described in para-
2 graphs (3) and (6) of section 791(b).

3 **“SEC. 791. USE OF FUNDS.**

4 “(a) PLANNING GRANTS.—An eligible entity receiv-
5 ing a planning grant authorized under section 788(b) shall
6 use funds made available by such grant to conduct a com-
7 prehensive institutional planning process that includes—

8 “(1) an assessment of the needs of the part B
9 institution and, in the case of an eligible entity ap-
10 plying in a consortium described in subparagraph
11 (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section 787(1), the needs of
12 such other institution of higher education, private
13 nonprofit organization, or educational agency;

14 “(2) research on educational innovations, con-
15 sistent with the purpose of this part, as described in
16 section 786, to meet the needs described in para-
17 graph (1);

18 “(3) the selection of one or more such edu-
19 cational innovations to be implemented;

20 “(4) an assessment of the capacity of the part
21 B institution and, in the case of an eligible entity
22 applying in a consortium as described in subpara-
23 graph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section 787(1), the
24 capacity of such other institution of higher edu-
25 cation, private nonprofit organization, or educational

1 agency to implement each such educational innova-
2 tion; and

3 “(5) activities to further develop such capacity.

4 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An eligible entity
5 receiving an implementation grant under section 788(c)
6 shall use the funds made available by such grant to further
7 develop, pilot, field-test, implement, document, validate,
8 and, as applicable, scale up and replicate educational inno-
9 vations that address the purpose of this part, as described
10 in section 786, such as educational innovations designed
11 to—

12 “(1) improve student achievement, such as
13 through activities designed to increase the number
14 or percentage of students who successfully complete
15 developmental or remedial coursework (which may
16 be accomplished through the evidence-based redesign
17 of such coursework) and pursue and succeed in post-
18 secondary studies;

19 “(2) improve and expand institutional recruit-
20 ment, postsecondary school awareness, and postsec-
21 ondary school preparation efforts targeting students,
22 including high-achieving students, from low-income
23 families, such as through activities undertaken in
24 partnership with local educational agencies and non-
25 profit organizations (including the introduction of

1 dual enrollment programs and the implementation of
2 activities designed to enable more students to enter
3 postsecondary education without the need for reme-
4 diation);

5 “(3) increase the number or percentage of stu-
6 dents, particularly students who are members of his-
7 torically underrepresented populations, who enroll in
8 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
9 courses, graduate with degrees in such fields, and
10 pursue advanced studies in such fields;

11 “(4) increase (such as through the provision of
12 comprehensive academic and nonacademic student
13 support services) the number or percentage of stu-
14 dents who make satisfactory or accelerated progress
15 toward graduation from postsecondary school and
16 the number or percentage of students who graduate
17 from postsecondary school on time;

18 “(5) implement evidence-based improvements to
19 courses, particularly high-enrollment courses, to im-
20 prove student outcomes and reduce education costs
21 for students, including costs of remedial courses;

22 “(6) enhance the quality of teacher preparation
23 programs at part B institutions, to enable teachers
24 at such institutions to be highly effective in the

1 classroom and to enable such programs to meet the
2 demands for accountability in teacher education;

3 “(7) expand the effective use of technology in
4 higher education, such as through inter-institutional
5 collaboration on implementing competency-based
6 technology-enabled delivery models (including hybrid
7 models) or through the use of open educational re-
8 sources and digital content; and

9 “(8) provide a continuum of solutions by incor-
10 porating activities that address multiple objectives
11 described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

12 **“SEC. 792. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 “There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
14 as may be necessary for fiscal years 2015 through 2020
15 to carry out the activities under this part.”.

○