

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4308

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish an emergency grant aid program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. BRINDISI, and Mr. NADLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish an emergency grant aid program, 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 “Cost Assistance Made
5 Possible for Undergraduate Students Act” or the “CAM-
6 PUS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b et seq.) is amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 **“Subpart 11—Emergency Financial Aid Grants**

6 **“SEC. 440D. EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANT PROGRAMS
8 AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall carry out a grant pro-
9 gram to make grants, in accordance with subsection (c),
10 to eligible entities to provide emergency financial aid
11 grants to students in accordance with subsection (e).

12 “(b) MATCHING FUNDS.—

13 “(1) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF FEDERAL
14 SHARE.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the
15 Federal share of the cost of any emergency grant
16 aid program carried out under this section may not
17 exceed 50 percent.

18 “(2) LIMITATION.—Matching funds provided by
19 an eligible entity under this subsection may not in-
20 clude in-kind contributions.

21 “(3) EXCEPTIONS.—The Federal share of the
22 cost of an emergency grant aid program carried out
23 under this section shall equal 100 percent if the in-
24 stitution carrying out the emergency grant aid is an
25 institution of higher education described in section
26 371(a).

1 “(c) APPLICATION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desir-
3 ing to carry out an emergency grant aid program
4 under this section shall submit an application to the
5 Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and con-
6 taining such information as the Secretary may re-
7 quire.

8 “(2) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall, at least
9 30 days before each deadline to submit applications
10 under paragraph (1), conduct outreach to eligible in-
11 stitutions (as defined in section 371(a)) to provide
12 such institutions with information on the oppor-
13 tunity to apply under paragraph (1) to carry out an
14 emergency grant aid program under this section.

15 “(3) CONTENTS.—Each application under para-
16 graph (1) shall include a description of the emer-
17 gency grant aid program to be carried out by the eli-
18 gible entity, including—

19 “(A) an estimate of the number of emer-
20 gency financial aid grants that such entity will
21 make in an award year and how such eligible
22 entity assessed such estimate;

23 “(B) the criteria the eligible entity will use
24 to determine an emergency for which an eligible

1 student will be eligible to receive an emergency
2 financial aid grant;

3 “(C) an assurance that an emergency for
4 which an eligible student will be eligible to re-
5 ceive an emergency financial aid grant will in-
6 clude financial challenges that would directly
7 impact the ability of an eligible student to con-
8 tinue the course of study of such student, in-
9 cluding—

10 “(i) a loss of employment, transpor-
11 tation, child care, or housing of the stu-
12 dent;

13 “(ii) a medical condition of the stu-
14 dent, or a dependent of the student;

15 “(iii) with respect to the eligible stu-
16 dent, food insecurity; and

17 “(iv) in the case of an eligible student
18 who is a dependent student—

19 “(I) the death of a parent or
20 guardian of such eligible student; or

21 “(II) a medical condition of the
22 parent or guardian of such eligible
23 student which results in the loss of
24 employment of such parent or guard-
25 ian;

1 “(D) a description of the process by which
2 an eligible student may apply and receive an
3 emergency financial aid grant;

4 “(E) an assurance that the eligible entity,
5 when applicable, will make information available
6 to eligible students about the eligibility of such
7 students and their dependents for assistance
8 under the supplemental nutrition assistance
9 program under the Food and Nutrition Act of
10 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the special sup-
11 plemental nutrition program for women, in-
12 fants, and children under the Child Nutrition
13 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), and the pro-
14 gram of block grants for States for temporary
15 assistance for needy families established under
16 part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
17 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

18 “(F) an assurance that the eligible entity
19 will, to the extent practicable, assist eligible stu-
20 dents in obtaining information about and ac-
21 cessing means-tested Federal benefit programs
22 (as defined in section 479(d)) for which such
23 students may be eligible;

24 “(G) how the eligible entity will administer
25 the emergency grant aid program, including—

1 “(i) which employees and departments
2 of the eligible entity will administer the
3 emergency grant aid program;

4 “(ii) the role of the student financial
5 aid administrator of the eligible entity with
6 respect to the emergency grant aid pro-
7 gram;

8 “(iii) the online processes the eligible
9 entity will use to respond to applications,
10 approve applications, and disburse emer-
11 gency financial aid grants outside of nor-
12 mal business hours;

13 “(iv) the data management tools the
14 eligible entity will use—

15 “(I) to ensure efficient adminis-
16 tration of the emergency grant aid
17 program; and

18 “(II) for data collection for pur-
19 poses of evaluating the emergency
20 grant aid program;

21 “(v) the internal controls the eligible
22 entity will use to discourage fraud under
23 the emergency grant aid program;

24 “(vi) a description of other student
25 emergency financial support services of-

1 ferred by the eligible entity and the rela-
2 tionship between the emergency grant aid
3 program and such support services; and

4 “(vii) the process the eligible entity
5 will use to inform students who apply for
6 an emergency financial aid grant of the
7 services described under clause (vi);

8 “(H) an assurance that either the financial
9 aid department or the student services depart-
10 ment of the eligible entity will serve as the pri-
11 mary program administrator for the emergency
12 grant aid program;

13 “(I) an assurance that the process by
14 which an eligible student applies for an emer-
15 gency financial aid grant includes—

16 “(i) to the extent practicable, an
17 interview; and

18 “(ii) at least one opportunity to ap-
19 peal a denial of such a grant;

20 “(J) an assurance that the eligible entity
21 will—

22 “(i) acknowledge a request of a stu-
23 dent for an emergency financial aid grant
24 not later than 8 hours after such a request
25 is submitted to the eligible entity; and

1 “(ii) not later than 48 hours after
2 such a request is submitted to the eligible
3 entity—

4 “(I) decide whether to award an
5 emergency financial aid grant to such
6 student; and

7 “(II) if applicable, disburse such
8 emergency financial aid grant to such
9 eligible student;

10 “(K) a description of how the school in-
11 tends to limit excessive demand, fraud, or abuse
12 including through program audits and requiring
13 student documentation of the expenses for
14 which the emergency financial aid grant was
15 disbursed;

16 “(L) an assurance that the eligible entity
17 will provide the emergency financial aid grants
18 to eligible students—

19 “(i) subject to the availability of
20 funds, as requested by such eligible stu-
21 dents in the order such requests are made;
22 and

23 “(ii) without regard to any other cri-
24 teria; and

1 “(M) any other information the Secretary
2 may require.

3 “(4) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities to
4 carry out an emergency grant aid program under
5 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an
6 eligible entity in which at least 30 percent of the
7 students enrolled at such eligible entity are eligible
8 to receive a Federal Pell Grant.

9 “(d) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 9 months after
10 the date of enactment of this subpart, the Secretary shall
11 make available to the authorizing committees and the pub-
12 lic a list of eligible entities selected to carry out an emer-
13 gency grant aid program under this section.

14 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may only
16 use funds provided under this section to make emer-
17 gency financial aid grants to eligible students.

18 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—

19 “(A) AMOUNT.—An emergency financial
20 aid grant to an eligible student may not be in
21 an amount greater than \$750.

22 “(B) TOTAL AMOUNT.—The total amount
23 of emergency financial aid grants that an eligi-
24 ble student may receive from an eligible entity
25 may not exceed \$2,000.

1 “(f) INFORMATION AND EVALUATION.—

2 “(1) INFORMATION.—

3 “(A) STUDENT-LEVEL DATA.—Each eligi-
4 ble entity that carries out an emergency grant
5 aid program under this section shall annually
6 submit to the Director of the Institute of Edu-
7 cation Sciences a report that includes, with re-
8 spect to each eligible student who received an
9 emergency financial aid grant from such eligible
10 entity in the preceding year, the following:

11 “(i) The number of credit hours such
12 eligible student earned prior to receiving
13 an emergency financial aid grant.

14 “(ii) The amount of the emergency fi-
15 nancial aid grant.

16 “(iii) The date in the academic year
17 such eligible student applied for an emer-
18 gency financial aid grant.

19 “(iv) The type of emergency declared
20 by such eligible student.

21 “(v) The period of time between the
22 request by the eligible student for an emer-
23 gency financial aid grant and when the eli-
24 gible entity—

25 “(I) acknowledged such request;

1 “(II) decided whether to award
2 an emergency financial aid grant; and

3 “(III) disbursed such emergency
4 financial aid grant.

5 “(vi) If the eligible student completed
6 the program of study of such eligible stu-
7 dent after receiving such emergency finan-
8 cial aid grant.

9 “(vii) In the case of an eligible stu-
10 dent described in clause (vi), the period of
11 time between the date such eligible student
12 received an emergency financial aid grant
13 and when such eligible student completed
14 the program of study of such eligible stu-
15 dent.

16 “(B) AGGREGATE INFORMATION.—The Di-
17 rector shall use the student-level data provided
18 under subparagraph (A) to annually determine
19 the following information with respect to each
20 emergency grant aid program carried out under
21 this section in the preceding year:

22 “(i) The average number of credit
23 hours eligible students earned prior to re-
24 ceiving an emergency financial aid grant.

1 “(ii) The average amount of an emer-
2 gency financial aid grant.

3 “(iii) The dates in the academic year
4 on which each student applied for an emer-
5 gency financial aid grant.

6 “(iv) The type of emergency declared
7 by each student.

8 “(v) The average period of time be-
9 tween the date an eligible student received
10 an emergency financial aid grant and when
11 such eligible student completed the pro-
12 gram of study of such eligible student.

13 “(vi) The average period of time be-
14 tween a request of a student for an emer-
15 gency financial aid grant and when the eli-
16 gible entity—

17 “(I) acknowledged such request;

18 “(II) decided whether to award
19 an emergency financial aid grant; and

20 “(III) disbursed the emergency
21 financial aid grant.

22 “(vii) In the case of eligible students
23 who received more than one emergency fi-
24 nancial aid grant, the average amount of
25 an emergency financial aid grant received

1 over the period of enrollment of such eligi-
2 ble students.

3 “(viii) The completion and retention
4 rates of eligible students who received an
5 emergency financial aid grant.

6 “(C) DISAGGREGATION.—The information
7 determined under subparagraph (B) shall, in a
8 manner that does not identify any individual
9 student, be disaggregated as follows:

10 “(i) For each eligible entity that car-
11 ries out an emergency grant aid program
12 under this section, disaggregated by—

13 “(I) the eligible students who re-
14 ceived an emergency financial aid
15 grant under such emergency grant aid
16 program;

17 “(II) the students who applied
18 but did not receive an emergency fi-
19 nancial aid grant under such emer-
20 gency grant aid program;

21 “(III) the eligible students who
22 received more than one emergency fi-
23 nancial aid grant under such emer-
24 gency grant aid program; and

1 “(IV) the eligible students who
2 received a total of \$2,000 from emer-
3 gency financial aid grants under such
4 emergency grant aid program.

5 “(ii) For each group of students de-
6 scribed in clause (i), disaggregated by age,
7 race (as defined in section 153(a)(3) of the
8 Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002
9 (20 U.S.C. 9543)), gender, disability sta-
10 tus, students who are veterans or service
11 members, first generation college students,
12 and status as a recipient of a Federal Pell
13 Grant.

14 “(2) EVALUATION.—The Director, in consulta-
15 tion with the Secretary and using the information
16 determined under paragraph (1), shall annually
17 evaluate each eligible entity carrying out an emer-
18 gency grant aid program under this section. Each
19 evaluation shall be disaggregated in accordance with
20 paragraph (1)(C) and include, with respect to the
21 preceding year—

22 “(A) the extent to which the eligible entity
23 met the elements of the application of such eli-
24 gible entity under subsection (c);

1 “(B) whether, with respect to the students
2 enrolled in the eligible entity, the emergency
3 grant aid program led to a reduced average
4 time to completion or increased retention rates;

5 “(C) any obstacles related to the adminis-
6 tration of the emergency grant aid program;

7 “(D) the total amount of emergency finan-
8 cial aid grant assistance transmitted by the eli-
9 gible entity;

10 “(E) with respect to eligible students who
11 received an emergency financial aid grant, the
12 average amount of such emergency financial aid
13 grant;

14 “(F) enrollment data, disaggregated by en-
15 rollment status, retention rates, credit accumu-
16 lation, and completion rates for—

17 “(i) first-time, full-time students;

18 “(ii) first-time, part-time students;

19 “(iii) non-first-time, full-time stu-
20 dents;

21 “(iv) non-first-time, part-time stu-
22 dents;

23 “(v) students eligible for Federal Pell
24 Grants;

1 “(vi) race (as defined in section
2 153(a)(3) of the Education Sciences Re-
3 form Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9543)) and
4 ethnicity; and

5 “(vii) transfer rates; and

6 “(G) a description of the role of staff and
7 faculty in the administration of the emergency
8 grant aid program.

9 “(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Director, in con-
10 sultation with the Secretary, shall annually provide
11 to the authorizing committees a report on the effec-
12 tiveness of the emergency grant aid programs.

13 “(g) DATA PRIVACY.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any
15 person who obtains or has access to personally iden-
16 tifiable information pursuant to this section to
17 knowingly disclose to any person (except as author-
18 ized in this section or any Federal law) such person-
19 ally identifiable information.

20 “(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates para-
21 graph (1) shall be fined under title 18, United
22 States Code.

23 “(3) OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE UNITED
24 STATES.—If any officer or employee of the United
25 States violates paragraph (1), the officer or em-

1 ployee shall be dismissed from office or discharged
2 from employment upon conviction for the violation.

3 “(4) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Personally identifi-
4 able information collected under this section shall
5 not be used for any law enforcement activity or any
6 other activity that would result in adverse action
7 against any student, including debt collection activ-
8 ity or enforcement of the immigration laws.

9 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
11 tity’ means an institution of higher education that
12 on the date such entity receives a grant under this
13 section, is participating in the FSEOG program
14 under subpart 3.

15 “(2) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eligible
16 student’ means a student who—

17 “(A) is enrolled in an eligible entity on an
18 at least half-time basis; and

19 “(B) who is making satisfactory academic
20 progress.

21 “(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
22 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
23 meaning given the term in section 101.

1 “(4) FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—
2 The term ‘first generation college student’ has the
3 meaning given the term in section 402A(h)(3).”.

○