

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6537

To index the maximum value of Federal Pell Grants to inflation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To index the maximum value of Federal Pell Grants to inflation.

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 “Pell Grant Sustain-  
5 ability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) From 2009 through 2018, the maximum  
9 discretionary Federal Pell Grants under section 401

1 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 stayed flat  
2 while inflation was 17 percent.

3 (2) The value of Federal Pell Grants must keep  
4 pace with students' costs in order to fulfill their mis-  
5 sion of enabling lower-income students to attend col-  
6 lege.

7 **SEC. 3. INDEXING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS TO INFLATION.**

8 (a) AWARD YEAR 2022–2023.—Section 401 of the  
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is  
10 amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “through  
12 fiscal year 2017” and inserting “through fiscal year  
13 2022”; and

14 (2) in subsection (b)(7)(C), by amending clause  
15 (iii) to read as follows:

16 “(iii) SUBSEQUENT AWARD YEARS.—

17 “(I) AWARD YEARS 2018–2019  
18 THROUGH 2021–2022.—For each of the  
19 award years 2018–2019 through  
20 2021–2022, the amount determined  
21 under this subparagraph for purposes  
22 of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be equal  
23 to the amount determined under  
24 clause (ii) for award year 2017–2018.

1                   “(II) AWARD YEAR 2022–2023.—  
2                   For award year 2022–2023 and each  
3                   subsequent award year, the amount  
4                   determined under this subparagraph  
5                   for purposes of subparagraph (B)(iii)  
6                   shall be equal to—

7                   “(aa)(AA) \$6,495 or the  
8                   total maximum Federal Pell  
9                   Grant for the preceding award  
10                  year (as determined under clause  
11                  (iv)(II)), whichever is greater, in-  
12                  creased by a percentage equal to  
13                  the annual adjustment percent-  
14                  age for the award year for which  
15                  the amount under this subpara-  
16                  graph is being determined; re-  
17                  duced by

18                  “(BB) \$5,435 or the max-  
19                  imum Federal Pell Grant for  
20                  which a student was eligible for  
21                  the preceding award year, as  
22                  specified in the last enacted ap-  
23                  propriation Act applicable to that  
24                  year, whichever is greater; and

1 “(bb) rounded to the nearest  
2 \$5.”.

3 (b) AWARD YEAR 2023–2024, AND EACH SUBSE-  
4 QUENT AWARD YEAR.—Section 401(b) of the Higher  
5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)), as amended  
6 by section 703 of the FAFSA Simplification Act (division  
7 FF of Public Law 116–260), is further amended—

8 (1) by amending paragraph (5) to read as fol-  
9 lows:

10 “(5) TOTAL MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL  
11 GRANT.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For award year 2023–  
13 2024, and each subsequent award year, the  
14 total maximum Federal Pell Grant award per  
15 student shall be equal to the sum of—

16 “(i) \$1,060, increased by a percentage  
17 equal to the annual adjustment percentage  
18 for the award year for which the amount  
19 under this paragraph is being determined;  
20 and

21 “(ii) the amount specified as the max-  
22 imum Federal Pell Grant in the last en-  
23 acted appropriation Act applicable to that  
24 award year.

1           “(B) ROUNDING.—The total maximum  
2 Federal Pell Grant for any award year shall be  
3 rounded to the nearest \$5.

4           “(C) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT PERCENTAGE  
5 DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘annual  
6 adjustment percentage’, as applied to an award  
7 year, is equal to the estimated percentage  
8 change in the Consumer Price Index (as deter-  
9 mined by the Secretary, using the definition in  
10 section 478(f)) for the most recent calendar  
11 year ending prior to the beginning of that  
12 award year.”;

13           (2) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), by striking “each of  
14 the fiscal years 2023 through 2033” and inserting  
15 “fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year”;  
16 and

17           (3) in paragraph (8)(A), by striking “through  
18 fiscal year 2033”.

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