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118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6585

[Report No. 118-337]

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. DESAULNIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

DECEMBER 22, 2023

Additional sponsors: Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. OWENS, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. McCLAIN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. JAMES, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. TRONE, Ms. MALOY, and Mr. WALBERG

DECEMBER 22, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on December 5, 2023]

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term work-force programs.

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 “Bipartisan Workforce*
5 *Pell Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS.**

7 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401 of the Higher Edu-*
8 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a), as amended by sec-*
9 *tion 703 of the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of divi-*
10 *sion FF of Public Law 116–260), is amended by adding*
11 *at the end the following:*

12 *“(k) WORKFORCE PELL GRANT PROGRAM.—*

13 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—For the award year begin-*
14 *ning on July 1, 2025, and each subsequent award*
15 *year, the Secretary shall award grants (to be known*
16 *as ‘Workforce Pell Grants’) to eligible students under*
17 *paragraph (2) in accordance with this subsection.*

18 *“(2) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—To be eligible to re-*
19 *ceive a Workforce Pell Grant under this subsection for*
20 *any period of enrollment, a student shall meet the eli-*
21 *gibility requirements for a Federal Pell Grant under*
22 *this section, except that the student—*

23 *“(A) shall be enrolled, or accepted for enroll-*
24 *ment, in an eligible program under section*

1 481(b)(3) (hereinafter referred to as an ‘eligible
2 workforce program’); and

3 “(B) may not—

4 “(i) be enrolled, or accepted for enroll-
5 ment, in a program of study that leads to
6 a master’s degree, doctoral degree, or other
7 post-graduate degree; or

8 “(ii) have attained such a degree.

9 “(3) *TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDS.*—The
10 Secretary shall award Workforce Pell Grants under
11 this subsection in the same manner and with the
12 same terms and conditions as the Secretary awards
13 Federal Pell Grants under this section, except that—

14 “(A) each use of the term ‘eligible program’
15 shall be substituted by ‘eligible workforce pro-
16 gram under section 481(b)(3)’, other than with
17 respect to—

18 “(i) paragraph (9)(A) of such sub-
19 section; and

20 “(ii) subsection (d)(2); and

21 “(B) a student who is eligible for a grant
22 equal to less than the amount of the minimum
23 Federal Pell Grant because the eligible workforce
24 program in which the student is enrolled or ac-
25 cepted for enrollment is less than an academic

1 year (in hours of instruction or weeks of dura-
2 tion) may still be eligible for a Workforce Pell
3 Grant in an amount that is prorated based on
4 the length of the program.

5 “(4) *PREVENTION OF DOUBLE BENEFITS.*—No el-
6 igible student described in paragraph (2) may con-
7 currently receive a grant under both this subsection
8 and—

9 “(A) subsection (b); or

10 “(B) subsection (c).

11 “(5) *DURATION LIMIT.*—Any period of study cov-
12 ered by a Workforce Pell Grant awarded under this
13 subsection shall be included in determining a stu-
14 dent’s duration limit under subsection (d)(5).”.

15 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by sub-
16 section (a) shall take effect as if included in section 703
17 of the *FAFSA Simplification Act* (title VII of division FF
18 of Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 3191) and in accordance
19 with section 701(b) of such Act.

20 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY FOR WORKFORCE PELL**
21 **GRANTS.**

22 Section 481(b) of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*
23 (20 U.S.C. 1088(b)) is amended—

24 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as
25 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(3)(A) A program is an eligible program for purposes
4 of the Workforce Pell Grant program under section 401(k)
5 only if—

6 “(i) it is a program of at least 150 clock hours
7 of instruction, but less than 600 clock hours of in-
8 struction, or an equivalent number of credit hours, of-
9 fered during a minimum of 8 weeks, but less than 15
10 weeks;

11 “(ii) it is not offered as a correspondence course,
12 as defined in 600.2 of title 34, Code of Federal Regu-
13 lations (as in effect on September 20, 2020);

14 “(iii) the State board makes a determination
15 that the program—

16 “(I) provides an education aligned with the
17 requirements of high-skill, high-wage (as identi-
18 fied by the State pursuant to section 122 of the
19 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
20 Act (20 U.S.C. 2342), or in-demand industry
21 sectors or occupations;

22 “(II) meets the hiring requirements of po-
23 tential employers in the sectors or occupations
24 described in subclause (I); and

1 “(III) satisfies any applicable educational
2 prerequisite requirement for professional licen-
3 sure or certification in the State or States in
4 which the program is offered, as applicable, such
5 that a student who completes the program is
6 qualified to—

7 “(aa) practice or find employment in
8 the sectors or occupations described in sub-
9 clause (I); and

10 “(bb) as applicable, take any licensure
11 or certification examinations required to
12 practice or find employment in such sectors
13 or occupations;

14 “(iv) after the State board makes the determina-
15 tion that the program meets the requirements under
16 clause (iii), the accrediting agency or association rec-
17 ognized by the Secretary pursuant to section 496(a)
18 determines that the program—

19 “(I) either—

20 “(aa) leads to a recognized postsec-
21 ondary credential that is stackable and
22 portable across more than one employer; or

23 “(bb) with respect to students enrolled
24 in the program—

1 “(AA) prepares such students for
2 employment in an occupation for
3 which there is only one recognized
4 postsecondary credential; and

5 “(BB) provides such students with
6 such a credential upon completion of
7 such program;

8 “(II) prepares students to pursue 1 or more
9 certificate or degree programs at 1 or more insti-
10 tutions of higher education (which may include
11 the institution of higher education providing the
12 program), including by ensuring—

13 “(aa) that a student, upon completion
14 of the program and enrollment in such a re-
15 lated certificate or degree program, will re-
16 ceive academic credit for the program that
17 will be accepted toward meeting such cer-
18 tificate or degree program requirements;
19 and

20 “(bb) the acceptability of such credit
21 toward meeting such certificate or degree
22 program requirements; and

23 “(III) posts prominently on the website of
24 the institution the recognized postsecondary cre-
25 dential that will be awarded to the student upon

1 completion of the program, including the entity
2 issuing the credential, any third-party endorse-
3 ments of the credential, the occupation or occu-
4 pations for which the credential prepares indi-
5 viduals for employment, the competencies
6 achieved to earn the credential, the level of mas-
7 tery of such competencies and how mastery is as-
8 sessed, and specific information with respect to
9 where, whether, and under what circumstances
10 the credential is stackable or portable;

11 “(IV) with respect to the information col-
12 lected under section 131(i)—

13 “(aa) posts such information promi-
14 nently on the website of the institution; and

15 “(bb) provides such information in a
16 written disclosure to each prospective stu-
17 dent prior to entering into an enrollment
18 agreement with such student for such pro-
19 gram, and establishes procedures for each
20 such student to confirm receipt of such dis-
21 closure;

22 “(V) has established a plan to ensure stu-
23 dents who completed the program have access to
24 transcripts for completed coursework without a
25 fee; and

1 “(VI) has been offered by an eligible institu-
2 tion of higher education for not less than 1 year
3 prior to the date on which such agency or asso-
4 ciation is to make a determination under this
5 paragraph;

6 “(v) after the accrediting agency makes the deter-
7 mination that the program meets the requirements
8 under clause (iv), the Secretary determines that—

9 “(I) for each award year, the program has
10 a verified completion rate of at least 70 percent,
11 within 150 percent of the normal time for com-
12 pletion;

13 “(II) for each award year, the program has
14 a verified job placement rate of at least 70 per-
15 cent, measured 180 days after completion;

16 “(III) for each award year, the program
17 charges to a Workforce Pell Grant recipient
18 under section 401(k) a total amount of tuition
19 and fees for the program for such year that does
20 not exceed the value-added earnings of students
21 for the most recent year for which data is avail-
22 able; and

23 “(IV) for at least 2 of the 3 most recent con-
24 secutive award years for which data are avail-
25 able, the median earnings of students who com-

1 *pleted the program, measured three years after*
2 *students completed the program, exceeded the an-*
3 *nuual median earnings of individuals in the State*
4 *in which the program is located—*

5 *“(aa) who are in the labor force;*

6 *“(bb) who are between 25 and 34 years*
7 *of age, inclusive; and*

8 *“(cc) for whom the highest degree at-*
9 *tained is a high school diploma (or recog-*
10 *nized equivalent); and*

11 *“(vi) in the case of a program that has been an*
12 *eligible workforce program under this paragraph for*
13 *3 or more years, it uses common, linked, open, and*
14 *interoperable data formats when posting on the*
15 *website of the institution the data required under sub-*
16 *clauses (III) and (IV) of clause (iv).*

17 *“(B)(i) The Secretary shall establish an appeals proc-*
18 *ess wherein a program may request that, in making a deter-*
19 *mination under subparagraph (A)(v) (other than with re-*
20 *spect to the median earnings of the individuals in the State*
21 *described in subclause (IV) of such subparagraph), the Sec-*
22 *retary use alternate earnings data, provided by the pro-*
23 *gram, that is based on local, State, or Federal administra-*
24 *tive data sources and that is statistically rigorous, accurate,*
25 *comparable to, and representative of such students, if such*

1 *program objects to a determination made by the Secretary*
2 *under such subparagraph for purposes of—*

3 *“(I) eligibility under this paragraph; or*

4 *“(II) the reporting or publishing of the rates or*
5 *earnings described in such a determination under sec-*
6 *tion 131(i).*

7 *“(ii) In the case of a program that is seeking to estab-*
8 *lish initial eligibility under this paragraph that does not*
9 *have data available for the Secretary to make the deter-*
10 *minations required under subparagraph (A)(v), the Sec-*
11 *retary may, for a period that does not exceed 1 year, make*
12 *such determinations (other than the median earnings of the*
13 *individuals in the State described in subclause (IV) of such*
14 *subparagraph) with respect to the program using, as pro-*
15 *vided by the program—*

16 *“(I) alternate earnings data of students who*
17 *complete the program, provided such data are statis-*
18 *tically rigorous, accurate, comparable to, and rep-*
19 *resentative of such students; and*

20 *“(II) alternate completion and job placement*
21 *rates of students who enroll in the program, provided*
22 *such data are statistically rigorous, accurate, com-*
23 *parable, and representative of such students.*

24 *“(iii) If the Secretary determines that a program pro-*
25 *vided inaccurate earnings data under clause (i)(I) or clause*

1 *(ii), such program shall return to the Secretary any funds*
2 *received under section 401(k) during the period beginning*
3 *on the date that is the first day of the provisional eligibility*
4 *period and ending on the date on which the Secretary*
5 *makes such determination.*

6 “(C)(i) *In the case of a program that is seeking to es-*
7 *tablish initial eligibility under this paragraph, the Sec-*
8 *retary shall grant eligibility for the program if it meets*
9 *the requirements of this paragraph not more than 120 days*
10 *after the date on which the Secretary receives a submission*
11 *from such program for consideration as an eligible work-*
12 *force program under this paragraph.*

13 “(ii) *If a program that is an eligible workforce pro-*
14 *gram under this paragraph no longer meets one or more*
15 *of the requirements under this paragraph, as determined*
16 *by the State Board, accrediting agency, or the Secretary,*
17 *the Secretary—*

18 “(I) *may withdraw the eligibility of such pro-*
19 *gram; and*

20 “(II) *shall prohibit such program, and any sub-*
21 *stantially similar program of the institution, from*
22 *being considered an eligible workforce program under*
23 *this paragraph for a period of not less than 3 years.*

24 “(D)(i) *In the case of a program with a number of*
25 *enrolled students that is insufficient to provide the Sec-*

1 *retary with enough relevant data to make the determina-*
2 *tions under subparagraph (A)(v), the Secretary shall—*

3 *“(I) aggregate up to 4 years of additional data*
4 *for such program and use such aggregated data to*
5 *make such determinations; or*

6 *“(II) only if such aggregated data under sub-*
7 *clause (I) is insufficient, aggregate up to 4 years of*
8 *data of students who completed or were enrolled in,*
9 *as applicable, similar programs at the institution (as*
10 *determined using the first 4 digits of the CIP codes*
11 *of such programs) and use such data to make such de-*
12 *terminations.*

13 *“(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘CIP*
14 *code’ means the 6-digit taxonomic identification code as-*
15 *signed by an institution of higher education to a specific*
16 *program of study at the institution, determined by the in-*
17 *stitution in accordance with the Classification of Instruc-*
18 *tional Programs published by the National Center for Edu-*
19 *cation Statistics.*

20 *“(E) In this paragraph:*

21 *“(i) The term ‘eligible institution of higher edu-*
22 *cation’ means an institution of higher education (as*
23 *defined in section 102) that—*

1 “(I) is approved by an accrediting agency
2 or association that meets the requirements of sec-
3 tion 496(a)(4)(C); and

4 “(II) has not been subject, during any of the
5 preceding 3 years, to—

6 “(aa) any suspension, emergency ac-
7 tion, or termination under this title;

8 “(bb) any adverse action by the insti-
9 tution’s accrediting agency or association
10 that revokes or denies accreditation for the
11 institution; or

12 “(cc) any final action by the State
13 where the institution holds its legal domi-
14 cile, authorization, and accreditation that
15 revokes a license or other authority to oper-
16 ate.

17 “(ii) The term ‘median earnings’, when used
18 with respect to an eligible workforce program under
19 this paragraph—

20 “(I) means the median annualized earn-
21 ings, calculated using earnings for a pay period,
22 month, quarter, or other time period deemed ap-
23 propriate by the Secretary, of all students who
24 received Federal financial assistance under this

1 *title and who completed the program in an aca-*
2 *demically year; and*

3 *“(II) shall be measured a given number of*
4 *years after such students completed the program,*
5 *with the number of years determined in accord-*
6 *ance with this Act based on the intended use of*
7 *the median earnings data being calculated.*

8 *“(iii) With respect to students who received Fed-*
9 *eral financial aid under this title and who completed*
10 *an eligible workforce program under this paragraph*
11 *in a given year, the term ‘value-added earnings’*
12 *means—*

13 *“(I) the median earnings of such students,*
14 *measured one year after students completed the*
15 *program; minus*

16 *“(II) for the year median earnings are*
17 *measured for such students under subclause (I),*
18 *150 percent of the poverty line applicable to a*
19 *single individual as determined under section*
20 *673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant*
21 *Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) for such year and, in*
22 *the case of a program offered in-person, adjusted*
23 *by the regional price parity index of the Bureau*
24 *of Economic Analysis for the metropolitan statis-*
25 *tical area in which the eligible institution of*

1 *higher education offering such program is lo-*
 2 *cated.*

3 “(iv) *The terms ‘industry or sector partnership’,*
 4 *‘in-demand industry sector or occupation’, ‘recognized*
 5 *postsecondary credential’, and ‘State board’ have the*
 6 *meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Work-*
 7 *force Innovation and Opportunity Act.’”.*

8 **SEC. 4. DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION RELATED**
 9 **TO WORKFORCE PELL.**

10 *Section 131 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*
 11 *U.S.C. 1015) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

12 “(i) *DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION RELATED*
 13 *TO WORKFORCE PELL.—*

14 “(1) *PRIMARY DATA SOURCE.—The Secretary*
 15 *shall use data from the National Student Loan Data*
 16 *System or administrative data maintained by the De-*
 17 *partment, matched with Internal Revenue Service in-*
 18 *come data to collect data and make calculations in*
 19 *accordance with this subsection and section 481(b)(3).*

20 “(2) *PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall, on an*
 21 *annual basis, collect, verify, and make publicly avail-*
 22 *able on the College Scorecard website (or any similar*
 23 *successor website), the information required under sec-*
 24 *tion 481(b)(3)(A)(v), with respect to each eligible pro-*

1 *gram under section 481(b)(3) (hereinafter referred to*
2 *as an ‘eligible workforce program’), including—*

3 *“(A) the length of the program (as measured*
4 *in clock hours, credit hours, or weeks);*

5 *“(B) the required tuition and fees of the*
6 *program;*

7 *“(C) the difference between the required tui-*
8 *tion and fees described in section*
9 *481(b)(3)(A)(v)(III) and median amount of*
10 *grant aid (which does not need to be repaid) pro-*
11 *vided to students receiving Workforce Pell*
12 *Grants, disaggregated by source of such grant*
13 *aid;*

14 *“(D) the median earnings of students as*
15 *such term is defined in section 481(b)(3)(E);*

16 *“(E) the median earnings of students who*
17 *did not complete the program and received Fed-*
18 *eral financial assistance under this title;*

19 *“(F) the ratio of the amount described in*
20 *subparagraph (C) to the value-added earnings*
21 *(as such term is defined in section 481(b)(3)(E))*
22 *of students and an explanation, in clear and*
23 *plain language, of this ratio;*

24 *“(G) in the case of a program that prepares*
25 *students for a professional licensure or certifi-*

1 *cation examination, the share of such students*
2 *who pass such examinations;*

3 *“(H) the number of students enrolled in the*
4 *program during the most recent academic year*
5 *for which data is available;*

6 *“(I) the percentage of students who enroll in*
7 *the program and who complete the program*
8 *within—*

9 *“(i) 100 percent of the normal time for*
10 *completion of such program;*

11 *“(ii) 150 percent of the normal time*
12 *for completion of such program; and*

13 *“(iii) 200 percent of the normal time*
14 *for completion of such program;*

15 *“(J) the percentage of students who are em-*
16 *ployed not later than 180 days and 1 year, re-*
17 *spectively, after completing the program;*

18 *“(K) the percentage of individuals—*

19 *“(i) who have completed such program;*
20 *and*

21 *“(ii) 1 year after such completion,*
22 *whose median earnings exceed 150 percent*
23 *of the poverty line applicable to a single in-*
24 *dividual, as determined under section*

1 673(2) of the Community Services Block
2 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2));

3 “(L) the percentage of students who enroll
4 in a certificate or degree program at any insti-
5 tution of higher education within 1 year of com-
6 pleting such program; and

7 “(M) the percentage of students who com-
8 plete a subsequent certificate or degree program
9 at any institution of higher education within 6
10 years of completing such program.

11 “(3) DATA DISAGGREGATION.—The information
12 in subparagraphs (D), (E), and (H) through (M)
13 shall be disaggregated by—

14 “(A) sex;

15 “(B) race and ethnicity;

16 “(C) income quintile, as defined by the Sec-
17 retary; and

18 “(D) status as a recipient of a Workforce
19 Pell Grant.

20 “(4) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other
21 provision of this subsection, if disclosure of any data
22 under paragraph (1) is prohibited under State or
23 Federal privacy laws or regulations, the Secretary
24 shall take the steps described in paragraph (5), and
25 any other steps determined by the Secretary to be nec-

1 *essary to make publicly available such data in ac-*
2 *cordance with such laws and regulations.*

3 *“(5) SMALL PROGRAMS.—*

4 *“(A) AGGREGATION.—For purposes of pub-*
5 *lishing the information described in this sub-*
6 *section with respect to an eligible workforce pro-*
7 *gram, for any year for which the number of stu-*
8 *dents is determined by the Secretary to be of in-*
9 *sufficient size to maintain the privacy of student*
10 *data, the Secretary shall, to obtain data for a*
11 *sufficient number of students to maintain stu-*
12 *dent privacy—*

13 *“(i) aggregate up to 4 years of addi-*
14 *tional data for such program;*

15 *“(ii) only if the aggregated data under*
16 *clause (i) is insufficient to maintain stu-*
17 *dent privacy or cannot be aggregated, ag-*
18 *gregate data for students who completed or*
19 *were enrolled in, as applicable, similar pro-*
20 *grams at the institution (as determined*
21 *using the first 4 digits of the CIP codes); or*

22 *“(iii) only if the aggregated data*
23 *under clause (ii) is insufficient to maintain*
24 *student privacy or cannot be aggregated,*
25 *aggregate data with respect to all students*

1 *who completed or were enrolled in, as appli-*
2 *cable, any program of the institution of the*
3 *same credential level, in lieu of data specific*
4 *to students in such program.*

5 “(B) *NOTIFICATION OF AGGREGATION.*—*The*
6 *Secretary shall prominently indicate whether*
7 *data published under this subsection has been ag-*
8 *gregated in accordance with subparagraph (A).*

9 “(C) *CIP CODE DEFINED.*—*For purposes of*
10 *this paragraph, the term ‘CIP code’ means the 6-*
11 *digit taxonomic identification code assigned by*
12 *an institution of higher education to a specific*
13 *program of study at the institution, determined*
14 *by the institution in accordance with the Classi-*
15 *fication of Instructional Programs published by*
16 *the National Center for Education Statistics.”.*

17 **SEC. 5. ACCREDITING AGENCY DETERMINATION OF ELIGI-**
18 **BILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WORK-**
19 **FORCE PELL GRANTS PROGRAM.**

20 (a) *REFERENCES.*—*Except as otherwise expressly pro-*
21 *vided, whenever in this section an amendment or reference*
22 *is expressed in terms of an amendment or reference to a*
23 *section or other provision, the amendment or reference shall*
24 *be considered to be made to a section or other provision*

1 *of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et*
2 *seq.).*

3 *(b) RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCY OR ASSO-*
4 *CIATION.—Section 496(a)(4) (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4)) is*
5 *amended—*

6 *(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at*
7 *the end;*

8 *(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by inserting “and”*
9 *at the end; and*

10 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

11 *“(C) if such agency or association has or seeks*
12 *to include within its scope of recognition the evalua-*
13 *tion of the quality of institutions offering an eligible*
14 *program under section 481(b)(3), such agency or asso-*
15 *ciation shall, in addition to meeting the other require-*
16 *ments of this subpart, demonstrate to the Secretary*
17 *that, with respect to such an eligible program—*

18 *“(i) the agency or association’s standards*
19 *include a process for determining if the institu-*
20 *tion has the capability to effectively offer such*
21 *program; and*

22 *“(ii) the agency or association requires a*
23 *demonstration that the program satisfies the re-*
24 *quirements of section 481(b)(3)(A)(iv);”.*

25 *(c) PROSPECTIVE ACCREDITORS.—The Secretary—*

1 (1) *in the case of an accrediting agency or asso-*
2 *ciation that is not recognized under section 496 (20*
3 *U.S.C. 1099b) and that is seeking initial recognition*
4 *to evaluate only eligible programs under section*
5 *481(b)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1088(b)), may only recognize*
6 *such agency or association for such purpose if such*
7 *agency or association demonstrates, in the applica-*
8 *tion submitted under such section 496 for such rec-*
9 *ognition, compliance with the requirements of such*
10 *section for at least 1 year prior to the date on which*
11 *such application is submitted;*

12 (2) *shall, not later than 1 year after receiving*
13 *such an application, make a recommendation with re-*
14 *spect to whether such agency or association should be*
15 *recognized for such purpose; and*

16 (3) *shall, after making the recommendation de-*
17 *scribed in paragraph (2), direct the National Advi-*
18 *sory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integ-*
19 *riety (as established by section 114 (20 U.S.C. 1011c))*
20 *(hereinafter referred to as “NACIQI”) to, at the first*
21 *scheduled meeting of such Committee following such a*
22 *recommendation—*

23 (A) *evaluate the recognition of the agency or*
24 *association; and*

1 (B) advise the Secretary with respect to
2 whether the agency or association meets the cri-
3 teria under section 496(a)(4)(C) (20 U.S.C.
4 1099b(a)(4)) (as added by subsection (b)).

5 (d) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—The Secretary shall
6 provide technical assistance to any prospective accrediting
7 agency or association seeking initial recognition by the Sec-
8 retary under section 496 (20 U.S.C. 1099b), including with
9 respect to recognition to evaluate institutions with an eligi-
10 ble Workforce Pell Grants program.

11 (e) *ADDITIONAL NACIQI REVIEW MEETINGS.*—For
12 the purpose of preparing for the implementation of the
13 Workforce Pell Grant program under section 401(k) (20
14 U.S.C. 1070a) (as added by section 2), and in addition to
15 the meetings required under section 114(d)(1) (20 U.S.C.
16 1011c(d)(1)), NACIQI shall, for the period beginning on the
17 date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December
18 31, 2030, hold meetings to evaluate the recognition of pro-
19 spective accrediting agencies or associations described in
20 subsection (c) and the addition to the scope of recognition
21 of accrediting agencies and associations under section
22 496(a)(4)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4)).

23 (f) *INTERIM ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY.*—

24 (1) *NOTIFICATION.*—Beginning on the date of the
25 enactment of this Act, a recognized accrediting agency

1 or association that seeks, for the first time, to add to
2 its scope of recognition the evaluation of the quality
3 of institutions offering an eligible program under sec-
4 tion 481(b)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1088(b)) may include with-
5 in its scope of recognition the evaluation of such in-
6 stitutions if such agency or association—

7 (A) submits to the Secretary a notification
8 of the agency or association's intent to add the
9 evaluation of such institutions to its scope of rec-
10 ognition; and

11 (B) includes with such notification an ex-
12 planation of how the agency or association in-
13 tends to meet the criteria under section
14 496(a)(4)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4)) (as added
15 by subsection (b)).

16 (2) *REVIEW OF SCOPE OF CHANGES.*—Upon re-
17 ceipt of a notification from an accrediting agency or
18 association described in subparagraph (A), the Sec-
19 retary shall direct NACIQI to evaluate, at the next
20 available meeting of such Committee, the addition to
21 the scope of recognition of the agency or association
22 and to advise the Secretary with respect to whether
23 the agency or association meets the criteria under sec-
24 tion 496(a)(4)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4)) (as added
25 by subsection (b)).

1 (3) *TERMINATION OF INTERIM AUTHORITY.*—*The*
2 *interim authority granted to an agency or association*
3 *under this paragraph shall terminate on the earlier*
4 *of—*

5 (A) *the date that is 5 years after the date*
6 *of the enactment of this Act; or*

7 (B) *the date on which the Secretary deter-*
8 *mines whether such agency or association meets*
9 *the criteria under section 496(a)(4)(C) (20*
10 *U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4)) (as added by subsection (b)).*

11 **SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

12 *Nothing in this Act shall be construed to impose or*
13 *increase an occupational licensing or certification require-*
14 *ment on eligible programs under this title.*

15 **SEC. 7. AGREEMENTS WITH APPLICABLE EDUCATIONAL IN-**
16 **STITUTIONS.**

17 (a) *DIRECT LOANS.*—*Section 454(a) of the Higher*
18 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087d(a)) is amended—*

19 (1) *in paragraph (5), by striking “and” after the*
20 *semicolon;*

21 (2) *by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-*
22 *graph (7); and*

23 (3) *by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-*
24 *lowing:*

1 “(6) notwithstanding any other provision of this
2 *Act*, for the award year beginning on July 1, 2024,
3 and each subsequent award year, if such institution
4 is an applicable educational institution that is an or-
5 ganization subject to taxation under section 4968 of
6 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, provide that such
7 institution may not award—

8 “(A) a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, a Fed-
9 eral Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a
10 Federal Direct Plus Loan to any eligible student;
11 or

12 “(B) a Federal Direct Plus Loan to a par-
13 ent of an eligible dependent undergraduate stu-
14 dent if such student is eligible for a Federal Pell
15 Grant.”; and

16 (b) FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPOR-
17 TUNITY GRANTS.—Section 413C(a) of the Higher Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b–2(a)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (3), by redesignating subpara-
20 graphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), re-
21 spectively;

22 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3)
23 as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

1 (3) *in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as*
2 *so redesignated, by striking “Assistance may” and in-*
3 *serting*

4 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—Assistance may*”; and

5 (4) *by adding at the end the following:*

6 “(2) *EXCEPTION.—In addition to the require-*
7 *ments under paragraph (1), for the award year begin-*
8 *ning on July 1, 2024 and each subsequent award*
9 *year, an institution that is an applicable educational*
10 *institution that is an organization subject to taxation*
11 *under section 4968 of the Internal Revenue Code of*
12 *1986, may only receive assistance under this subpart*
13 *if such institution guarantees that, for each such*
14 *award year—*

15 “(A) *the total amount of grants and schol-*
16 *arships, including other financial assistance not*
17 *received under this title as defined in section*
18 *480(i), awarded to a student who receives a Fed-*
19 *eral Pell Grant under this title shall not be less*
20 *than the student’s cost of attendance (as defined*
21 *in section 472); and*

22 “(B) *the percentage of students enrolled at*
23 *such institution who are eligible for a Federal*
24 *Pell grant will be equal to or greater than the*
25 *percentage of students who were enrolled at such*

1 *institution and were eligible for a Federal Pell*
2 *grant in the award year during which the Bi-*
3 *partisan Workforce Pell Act was enacted.”.*

4 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 *In addition to funds made available for payment of*
6 *Workforce Pell Grants under section 401(k) of the Higher*
7 *Education Act of 1965 (as added by section 2 of this Act),*
8 *there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of*
9 *Education \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and*
10 *\$30,000,000 for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years for the*
11 *costs of implementing such section 401(k) and the other*
12 *amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*
13 *U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) made by this Act.*

Union Calendar No. 276

118TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 6585

[Report No. 118-337]

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs.

DECEMBER 22, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed