

Union Calendar No. 396

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4983

[Report No. 113-530]

To simplify and streamline the information regarding institutions of higher education made publicly available by the Secretary of Education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2014

Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. KLINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

JULY 17, 2014

Additional sponsors: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California

JULY 17, 2014

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 *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 26, 2014]

A BILL

To simplify and streamline the information regarding institutions of higher education made publicly available by the Secretary of Education, 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 “Strengthening Trans-*
5 *parency in Higher Education Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. COLLEGE DASHBOARD WEBSITE.**

7 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 132 of the Higher Edu-*
8 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a) is amended—*

9 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

10 *(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “first-*
11 *time,”;*

12 *(B) in paragraph (3) in the matter pre-*
13 *ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “first-*
14 *time,”; and*

15 *(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “first-*
16 *time,”;*

17 *(2) in subsection (b)—*

18 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “first-*
19 *time,”; and*

20 *(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “first-*
21 *time,”;*

22 *(3) by striking subsections (c) through (g), (j),*
23 *and (l);*

24 *(4) by redesignating subsections (h), (i), and (k)*
25 *as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and*

1 (5) *by striking subsection (d) (as so redesign-*
2 *ated) and inserting the following new subsection:*

3 “(d) *CONSUMER INFORMATION.—*

4 “(1) *AVAILABILITY OF TITLE IV INSTITUTION IN-*
5 *FORMATION.—The Secretary shall develop and make*
6 *publicly available a website to be known as the ‘Col-*
7 *lege Dashboard website’ in accordance with this sec-*
8 *tion and prominently display on such website, in*
9 *simple, understandable, and unbiased terms for the*
10 *most recent academic year for which satisfactory data*
11 *are available, the following information with respect*
12 *to each institution of higher education that partici-*
13 *pates in a program under title IV:*

14 “(A) *A link to the website of the institution.*

15 “(B) *An identification of the type of insti-*
16 *tution as one of the following:*

17 “(i) *A four-year public institution of*
18 *higher education.*

19 “(ii) *A four-year private, nonprofit in-*
20 *stitution of higher education.*

21 “(iii) *A four-year private, for-profit*
22 *institution of higher education.*

23 “(iv) *A two-year public institution of*
24 *higher education.*

1 “(v) *A two-year private, nonprofit in-*
2 *stitution of higher education.*

3 “(vi) *A two-year private, for-profit in-*
4 *stitution of higher education.*

5 “(vii) *A less than two-year public in-*
6 *stitution of higher education.*

7 “(viii) *A less than two-year private,*
8 *nonprofit institution of higher education.*

9 “(ix) *A less than two-year private, for-*
10 *profit institution of higher education.*

11 “(C) *The number of students enrolled at the*
12 *institution—*

13 “(i) *as undergraduate students; and*

14 “(ii) *as graduate students, if applica-*
15 *ble.*

16 “(D) *The student-faculty ratio.*

17 “(E) *The percentage of degree-seeking or*
18 *certificate-seeking undergraduate students en-*
19 *rolled at the institution who obtain a degree or*
20 *certificate within—*

21 “(i) *100 percent of the normal time for*
22 *completion of, or graduation from, the pro-*
23 *gram in which the student is enrolled;*

24 “(ii) *150 percent of the normal time*
25 *for completion of, or graduation from, the*

1 *program in which the student is enrolled;*
2 *and*

3 *“(iii) 200 percent of the normal time*
4 *for completion of, or graduation from, the*
5 *program in which the student is enrolled.*

6 *“(F) The average net price per year for un-*
7 *dergraduate students and a link to the net price*
8 *calculator for such institution.*

9 *“(G) The average Federal student loan debt*
10 *incurred by an undergraduate student who has*
11 *obtained a certificate or degree from the institu-*
12 *tion and who borrowed Federal student loans in*
13 *the course of obtaining such certificate or degree.*

14 *“(H) A link to national and regional data*
15 *from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on starting*
16 *salaries in all major occupations.*

17 *“(I) A link to the webpage of the institution*
18 *containing campus safety data with respect to*
19 *such institution.*

20 *“(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary*
21 *shall publish on Internet webpages that are linked to*
22 *through the College Dashboard website for the most re-*
23 *cent academic year for which satisfactory data is*
24 *available the following information with respect to*

1 *each institution of higher education that participates*
2 *in a program under title IV:*

3 “(A) *ENROLLMENT.*—

4 “(i) *The percentages of male and fe-*
5 *male undergraduate students enrolled at the*
6 *institution.*

7 “(ii) *The percentages of undergraduate*
8 *students enrolled at the institution—*

9 “(I) *full-time; and*

10 “(II) *less than full-time.*

11 “(iii) *Of the undergraduate students*
12 *enrolled at the institution—*

13 “(I) *the percentage of such stu-*
14 *dents who are from the State in which*
15 *the institution is located;*

16 “(II) *the percentage of such stu-*
17 *dents who are from other States; and*

18 “(III) *the percentage of such stu-*
19 *dents who are international students.*

20 “(iv) *The percentages of students en-*
21 *rolled at the institution, disaggregated by—*

22 “(I) *race and ethnic background;*

23 “(II) *classification as a student*
24 *with a disability;*

1 “(III) recipients of a Federal Pell
2 Grant;

3 “(IV) recipients of veterans’ edu-
4 cation benefits (as defined in section
5 480); and

6 “(V) recipients of a Federal stu-
7 dent loan.

8 “(B) COMPLETION.—The information re-
9 quired under paragraph (1)(E), disaggregated
10 by—

11 “(i) recipients of a Federal Pell Grant;

12 “(ii) recipients of a loan made under
13 part D (other than a Federal Direct Unsub-
14 sidized Stafford Loan) who did not receive
15 a Federal Pell Grant;

16 “(iii) persons who did not receive a
17 Federal Pell Grant or a loan made under
18 part D (other than a Federal Direct Unsub-
19 sidized Stafford Loan);

20 “(iv) race and ethnic background; and

21 “(v) classification as a student with a
22 disability.

23 “(C) COSTS.—

1 “(i) *The cost of attendance for full-time*
2 *undergraduate students enrolled in the in-*
3 *stitution who live on campus.*

4 “(ii) *The cost of attendance for full-*
5 *time undergraduate students enrolled in the*
6 *institution who live off campus.*

7 “(iii) *The cost of tuition and fees for*
8 *full-time undergraduate students enrolled in*
9 *the institution.*

10 “(iv) *The cost of tuition and fees per*
11 *credit hour or credit hour equivalency for*
12 *undergraduate students enrolled in the in-*
13 *stitution less than full time.*

14 “(v) *In the case of a public institution*
15 *of higher education and notwithstanding*
16 *subsection (b)(1), the costs described in*
17 *clauses (i) and (ii) for—*

18 “(I) *full-time students enrolled in*
19 *the institution who are residents of the*
20 *State in which the institution is lo-*
21 *cated; and*

22 “(II) *full-time students enrolled in*
23 *the institution who are not residents of*
24 *such State.*

1 “(vi) *The net price for students receiv-*
2 *ing Federal student financial aid under*
3 *title IV, disaggregated by the following in-*
4 *come categories for such students:*

5 “(I) *\$0 to \$30,000.*

6 “(II) *\$30,001 to \$48,000.*

7 “(III) *\$48,001 to \$75,000.*

8 “(IV) *\$75,001 to \$110,000.*

9 “(V) *Over \$110,000.*

10 “(D) *FINANCIAL AID.—*

11 “(i) *The average annual grant amount*
12 *(including Federal, State, and institutional*
13 *aid) awarded to an undergraduate student*
14 *enrolled at the institution who receives fi-*
15 *nancial aid.*

16 “(ii) *The percentage of undergraduate*
17 *students enrolled at the institution receiving*
18 *Federal, State, and institutional grants,*
19 *student loans, and any other type of student*
20 *financial assistance known by the institu-*
21 *tion, provided publicly or through the insti-*
22 *tution, such as Federal work-study funds.*

23 “(iii) *The cohort default rate (as de-*
24 *defined in section 435(m)) for such institu-*
25 *tion.*

1 “(E) *FACULTY INFORMATION.*—

2 “(i) *The ratio of the number of course*
3 *sections taught by part-time instructors to*
4 *the number of course sections taught by full-*
5 *time faculty, disaggregated by course sec-*
6 *tions intended primarily for undergraduate*
7 *students and course sections intended pri-*
8 *marily for graduate students.*

9 “(ii) *The mean and median years of*
10 *employment for part-time instructors.*

11 “(3) *OTHER DATA MATTERS.*—

12 “(A) *COMPLETION DATA.*—*The Commis-*
13 *sioner of Education Statistics shall ensure that*
14 *the information required under paragraph*
15 *(1)(E) includes information with respect to all*
16 *students at an institution, including students*
17 *other than first-time, full-time students, in a*
18 *manner that the Commissioner considers appro-*
19 *priate.*

20 “(B) *ADJUSTMENT OF INCOME CAT-*
21 *EGORIES.*—*The Secretary may annually adjust*
22 *the range of each of the income categories de-*
23 *scribed in paragraph (2)(C)(vi) to account for a*
24 *change in the Consumer Price Index for All*
25 *Urban Consumers as determined by the Bureau*

1 *of Labor Statistics if the Secretary determines*
2 *an adjustment is necessary.*

3 “(4) *INSTITUTIONAL COMPARISON.*—*The Sec-*
4 *retary shall include on the College Dashboard website*
5 *a method for users to easily compare the information*
6 *required under paragraphs (1) and (2) between insti-*
7 *tutions.*

8 “(5) *UPDATES.*—

9 “(A) *DATA.*—*The Secretary shall update the*
10 *College Dashboard website not less than annu-*
11 *ally.*

12 “(B) *TECHNOLOGY AND FORMAT.*—*The Sec-*
13 *retary shall regularly assess the format and tech-*
14 *nology of the College Dashboard website and*
15 *make any changes or updates that the Secretary*
16 *considers appropriate.*

17 “(6) *CONSUMER TESTING.*—

18 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*In developing and*
19 *maintaining the College Dashboard website, the*
20 *Secretary, in consultation with appropriate de-*
21 *partments and agencies of the Federal Govern-*
22 *ment, shall conduct consumer testing with ap-*
23 *propriate persons, including current and pro-*
24 *spective college students, family members of such*
25 *students, institutions of higher education, and*

1 *experts, to ensure that the College Dashboard*
2 *website is usable and easily understandable and*
3 *provides useful and relevant information to stu-*
4 *dents and families.*

5 “(B) *RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES.—*
6 *The Secretary shall submit to the authorizing*
7 *committees any recommendations that the Sec-*
8 *retary considers appropriate for changing the in-*
9 *formation required to be provided on the College*
10 *Dashboard website under paragraphs (1) and (2)*
11 *based on the results of the consumer testing con-*
12 *ducted under subparagraph (A).*

13 “(7) *PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE LINKS TO PRO-*
14 *SPECTIVE STUDENTS AFTER SUBMISSION OF*
15 *FAFSA.—The Secretary shall provide to each student*
16 *that submits a Free Application for Federal Student*
17 *Aid described in section 483 a link to the webpage of*
18 *the College Dashboard website that contains the infor-*
19 *mation required under paragraph (1) for each insti-*
20 *tution of higher education such student includes on*
21 *such Application.*

22 “(8) *INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Sec-*
23 *retary, in consultation with each appropriate head of*
24 *a department or agency of the Federal Government,*
25 *shall ensure to the greatest extent practicable that any*

1 *information related to higher education that is pub-*
2 *lished by such department or agency is consistent*
3 *with the information published on the College Dash-*
4 *board website.*

5 “(9) *REFERENCES TO COLLEGE NAVIGATOR*
6 *WEBSITE.—Any reference in this Act to the College*
7 *Navigator website shall be considered a reference to*
8 *the College Dashboard website.”*

9 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Higher Edu-*
10 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended*
11 *by subsection (a) of this section, is further amended—*

12 (1) *in section 131(h)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1015(h)(1)),*
13 *by striking “College Navigator” and inserting “Col-*
14 *lege Dashboard”; and*

15 (2) *in section 132(a) (20 U.S.C. 1015a(a)), by*
16 *striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following*
17 *new paragraph:*

18 “(1) *COLLEGE DASHBOARD WEBSITE.—The term*
19 *‘College Dashboard website’ means the College Dash-*
20 *board website required under subsection (d).”*

21 (c) *DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Education shall*
22 *develop and publish the College Dashboard website required*
23 *under section 132 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*
24 *U.S.C. 1015a), as amended by subsections (a) and (b) of*

1 *this section, not later than one year after the date of the*
2 *enactment of this Act.*

3 (d) *COLLEGE NAVIGATOR WEBSITE MAINTENANCE.*—

4 *The Secretary shall maintain the College Navigator website*
5 *required under section 132 of the Higher Education Act of*
6 *1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a), as in effect the day before the date*
7 *of the enactment of this Act, in the manner required under*
8 *the Higher Education Act of 1965, as in effect on such day,*
9 *until the College Dashboard website referred to in subsection*
10 *(c) is complete and publicly available on the Internet.*

11 **SEC. 3. NET PRICE CALCULATORS.**

12 *Subsection (c) of section 132 of the Higher Education*
13 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a), as redesignated by section*
14 *2(a)(4) of this Act, is amended—*

15 (1) *by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-*
16 *graph (6); and*

17 (2) *by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-*
18 *lowing new paragraphs:*

19 “(4) *MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR NET PRICE*
20 *CALCULATORS.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date*
21 *of the enactment of the Strengthening Transparency*
22 *in Higher Education Act, a net price calculator for*
23 *an institution of higher education shall meet the fol-*
24 *lowing requirements:*

25 “(A) *The link for the calculator shall—*

1 “(i) be clearly labeled as a net price
2 calculator and prominently, clearly, and
3 conspicuously posted in locations on the
4 website of such institution where informa-
5 tion on costs and aid is provided and any
6 other location that the institution considers
7 appropriate; and

8 “(ii) match in size and font to the
9 other prominent links on the webpage where
10 the link for the calculator is displayed.

11 “(B) The webpage displaying the results for
12 the calculator shall specify at least the following
13 information:

14 “(i) The net price (as calculated under
15 subsection (a)(2)) for such institution,
16 which shall be the most visually prominent
17 figure on the results screen.

18 “(ii) Cost of attendance, including—

19 “(I) tuition and fees;

20 “(II) average annual cost of room
21 and board for the institution for a full-
22 time undergraduate student enrolled in
23 the institution;

24 “(III) average annual cost of
25 books and supplies for a full-time un-

1 *dergraduate student enrolled in the in-*
2 *stitution; and*

3 *“(IV) estimated cost of other ex-*
4 *penses (including personal expenses*
5 *and transportation) for a full-time un-*
6 *dergraduate student enrolled in the in-*
7 *stitution.*

8 *“(iii) Estimated total need-based grant*
9 *aid and merit-based grant aid from Fed-*
10 *eral, State, and institutional sources that*
11 *may be available to a full-time under-*
12 *graduate student.*

13 *“(iv) Percentage of the full-time under-*
14 *graduate students enrolled in the institution*
15 *that received any type of grant aid de-*
16 *scribed in clause (iii).*

17 *“(v) The disclaimer described in para-*
18 *graph (6).*

19 *“(vi) In the case of a calculator that—*

20 *“(I) includes questions to estimate*
21 *the eligibility of a student or prospec-*
22 *tive student for veterans’ education*
23 *benefits (as defined in section 480) or*
24 *educational benefits for active duty*
25 *service members, such benefits are dis-*

1 *played on the results screen in a man-*
2 *ner that clearly distinguishes such ben-*
3 *efits from the grant aid described in*
4 *clause (iii); or*

5 *“(II) does not include questions to*
6 *estimate eligibility for the benefits de-*
7 *scribed in subclause (I), the results*
8 *screen indicates that certain students*
9 *(or prospective students) may qualify*
10 *for such benefits and includes a link to*
11 *information about such benefits.*

12 *“(C) The institution shall populate the cal-*
13 *culator with data from not later than 2 aca-*
14 *demie years prior to the most recent academic*
15 *year.*

16 *“(5) PROHIBITION ON USE OF DATA COLLECTED*
17 *BY THE NET PRICE CALCULATOR.—A net price calcu-*
18 *lator for an institution of higher education shall—*

19 *“(A) clearly indicate which questions are*
20 *required to be completed for an estimate of the*
21 *net price from the calculator;*

22 *“(B) in the case of a calculator that requests*
23 *contact information from users, clearly mark*
24 *such requests as optional and provide for an esti-*

1 *mate of the net price from the calculator without*
2 *requiring users to enter such information; and*
3 “(C) *prohibit any personally identifiable*
4 *information provided by users from being sold or*
5 *made available to third parties.”.*

6 **SEC. 4. FUNDING.**

7 *(a) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—Of the amount author-*
8 *ized to be appropriated to the Department of Education to*
9 *maintain the College Navigator website, \$1,000,000 shall be*
10 *available to carry out this Act and the amendments made*
11 *by this Act.*

12 *(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No funds*
13 *are authorized by this Act to be appropriated to carry out*
14 *this Act or the amendments made by this Act.*

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