

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1572

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional reporting on crime and harm that occurs during student participation in programs of study abroad, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2019

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional reporting on crime and harm that occurs during student participation in programs of study abroad, 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 “Ravi Thackurdeen Safe
5 Students Study Abroad Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF CLERY ACT TO PROGRAMS OF**
2 **STUDY ABROAD.**

3 (a) REPORTING OF CRIME STATISTICS.—Paragraph
4 (12) of section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of
5 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(f)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
7 graph (C);

8 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
9 paragraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

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

11 “(E) while a student is participating in a pro-
12 gram of study abroad approved for credit by an in-
13 stitution of higher education, distinguished by
14 whether the criminal offense occurred at a location
15 described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D), or
16 at another location, without regard to whether the
17 institution owns or controls a building or property at
18 such location.”.

19 (b) ADDITIONAL REPORTING FOR PROGRAMS OF
20 STUDY ABROAD.—Section 485(f) of the Higher Education
21 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(f)) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating paragraph (18) as para-
23 graph (19); and

24 (2) by inserting after paragraph (17), the fol-
25 lowing new paragraph:

1 “(18)(A) Each institution of higher education partici-
2 pating in any program under this title, other than a for-
3 eign institution of higher education, shall develop and dis-
4 tribute as part of the report described in paragraph (1),
5 a statement that the institution has adopted and imple-
6 mented a program to protect students participating in a
7 program of study abroad approved for credit by the insti-
8 tution from crime and harm while participating in such
9 program of study abroad that, at a minimum, includes the
10 following:

11 “(i) A biennial review by the institution of the
12 programs of study abroad approved for credit by the
13 institution to determine—

14 “(I) the effectiveness of the programs at
15 protecting students from crime and harm, and
16 whether changes to the programs are needed
17 (based on the most recent guidance or other as-
18 sistance from the Secretary) and will be imple-
19 mented;

20 “(II) for the 10 years preceding the date
21 of the report, the number (in the aggregate for
22 all programs of study abroad approved for cred-
23 it by the institution) of—

24 “(aa) deaths of program participants
25 occurring during program participation or

1 during any other activities during the
2 study abroad period;

3 “(bb) accidents and illnesses occurring
4 during program participation that resulted
5 in hospitalization;

6 “(cc) sexual assaults against program
7 participants occurring during program par-
8 ticipation; and

9 “(dd) incidents involving program
10 participants during the program participa-
11 tion that resulted in police involvement or
12 a police report; and

13 “(III) with respect to the incidents de-
14 scribed in items (aa) through (dd) of subclause
15 (II), whether the incidents occurred—

16 “(aa) on campus;

17 “(bb) in or on a noncampus building
18 or property;

19 “(cc) on public property;

20 “(dd) in dormitories or other residen-
21 tial facilities for students; or

22 “(ee) at a location not described in
23 items (aa) through (dd) of this subclause,
24 without regard to whether the institution

1 owns or controls a building or property at
2 the location.

3 “(ii) The crime statistics described in para-
4 graph (12)(E).

5 “(B) An institution of higher education described in
6 subparagraph (A) shall—

7 “(i) provide each student who is interested in
8 participating in a program of study abroad approved
9 for credit by the institution, with a pre-trip orienta-
10 tion session and advising that includes—

11 “(I) a list of countries in which such pro-
12 grams of study abroad are located;

13 “(II) all current travel information, includ-
14 ing all travel warnings and travel alerts, issued
15 by the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the De-
16 partment of State for such countries; and

17 “(III) the information described in clauses
18 (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A), provided spe-
19 cifically for each program of study abroad ap-
20 proved for credit by the institution in which the
21 student is considering participation; and

22 “(ii) provide each student who returns from
23 such a program of study abroad with a post-trip ori-
24 entation session, including an exit interview that as-

1 sists the institution in carrying out subparagraph
2 (A) and clause (i) of this subparagraph.

3 “(C) An institution of higher education shall not
4 disaggregate or otherwise distinguish information for pur-
5 poses of subparagraph (A) or (B) in a case in which the
6 number of students in a category is insufficient to yield
7 statistically reliable information or the results would reveal
8 personally identifiable information about an individual
9 student.

10 “(D) The Secretary shall periodically review a rep-
11 resentative sample of the programs described in subpara-
12 graph (A) that have been adopted and implemented by in-
13 stitutions of higher education to protect students partici-
14 pating in a program of study abroad described in subpara-
15 graph (A) from crime and harm while participating in
16 such program of study abroad.”.

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