

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 609

To prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

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

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## A BILL

To prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default.

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 “Protecting Job Oppor-  
5 tunities for Borrowers Act” or the “Protecting JOBS  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST SUSPENSION, REVOCATION,**  
 2 **OR DENIAL OF STATE-ISSUED PROFESSIONAL**  
 3 **LICENSES OR PENALTIES DUE TO STUDENT**  
 4 **DEFAULT.**

5 (a) HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 LOANS.—Part  
 6 B of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 7 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
 8 the following:

9 **“SEC. 124. PROHIBITION AGAINST SUSPENSION, REVOCA-**  
 10 **TION, OR DENIAL OF STATE-ISSUED PROFES-**  
 11 **SIONAL LICENSES OR PENALTIES DUE TO**  
 12 **STUDENT DEFAULT.**

13 “(a) PROHIBITION.—Beginning 2 years after the  
 14 date of enactment of the Protecting Job Opportunities for  
 15 Borrowers Act, a State that receives assistance under this  
 16 Act may not suspend, revoke, or deny the approval or re-  
 17 newal of a State-issued license described in subsection (b)  
 18 or issue a fine or other penalty with respect to an indi-  
 19 vidual based solely on such individual’s default or delin-  
 20 quency on a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title  
 21 IV.

22 “(b) TYPES OF LICENSES.—A State-issued license  
 23 described in this subsection means any of the following:

24 “(1) A State-issued driver’s license (including  
 25 any State-issued document permitting a specific in-  
 26 dividual to operate one or more types of motorized

1 vehicles, such as a motorcycle, car, truck, or bus on  
2 a public road).

3 “(2) A State-issued teaching license.

4 “(3) A State-issued professional license involved  
5 in or affecting interstate commerce (including any li-  
6 cense, permit, certificate, registration, charter, au-  
7 thority or similar form of permission required for  
8 lawful employment in a particular career field).

9 “(c) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Any individual aggrieved  
10 as a result of a violation of subsection (a) may bring a  
11 civil action in an appropriate district court of the United  
12 States to obtain prospective injunctive relief against an in-  
13 dividual State officer in the officer’s official capacity.”.

14 (b) HEALTH EDUCATION LOANS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State may not suspend,  
16 revoke, or deny the approval or renewal of a State-  
17 issued license described in section 124(b) of the  
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 or issue a fine or  
19 other penalty with respect to an individual based  
20 solely on such individual’s default or delinquency on  
21 a Health Education Assistance Loan or Primary  
22 Care Loan made under part A of title VII of the  
23 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.).

24 (2) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Any individual ag-  
25 grieved as a result of a violation of paragraph (1)

1        may bring a civil action in an appropriate district  
2        court of the United States to obtain prospective in-  
3        junctive relief against an individual State officer in  
4        the officer's official capacity.

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