

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7168

To direct the Secretary of Education to develop standards for fire suppression systems in dormitories and other residential facilities for students on the campuses of institutions of higher education that receive Federal education funding, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 2026

Mr. KEAN (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to develop standards for fire suppression systems in dormitories and other residential facilities for students on the campuses of institutions of higher education that receive Federal education funding, 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 “Seton Hall Fire Vic-
5 tims Remembrance Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. FIRE SUPPRESSION STANDARDS AT INSTITUTIONS**
2 **OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

3 (a) FIRE SUPPRESSION STANDARDS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years
5 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
6 Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Di-
7 rector of the National Institute of Standards and
8 Technology and other relevant subject matter ex-
9 perts (as determined by the Secretary and the Direc-
10 tor of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
11 nology), shall develop and finalize standards for fire
12 suppression systems in dormitories and other resi-
13 dential facilities for students on the campus of a
14 covered institution (which shall include a timeline
15 for phasing in such standards and the threshold of
16 compliance to be met by the covered institution to
17 receive a designation). The Secretary, in consulta-
18 tion with the Director of the National Institute of
19 Standards and Technology, shall update these stand-
20 ards every 10 years.

21 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS; TECHNICAL ASSIST-
22 ANCE.—Not later than three years after the enact-
23 ment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with
24 the Director of the National Institute of Standards
25 and Technology, shall—

1 (A) submit to Congress recommendations
2 with respect to ensuring maximum compliance
3 of covered institutions with the standards final-
4 ized under paragraph (1); and

5 (B) provide technical assistance to covered
6 institutions with respect to complying with such
7 standards.

8 (b) INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—

10 (A) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than one
11 year after the finalization of standards under
12 subsection (a)(1), and every 5 years thereafter,
13 a covered institution shall carry out an assess-
14 ment of compliance with such standards and
15 submit an accurate assessment to the Sec-
16 retary. The accuracy of the assessment shall be
17 determined by an expert in fire suppression sys-
18 tems, as defined by the Secretary in consulta-
19 tion with the Director of the National Institute
20 of Standards and Technology. Upon submission
21 of the assessment of compliance, the covered in-
22 stitution certifies the accuracy of the assess-
23 ment.

24 (B) DETERMINATION.—Not later than six
25 months after receiving an assessment from a

covered institution under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall make a designation with respect to the degree of compliance of each dormitory and residential facility.

(C) DESIGNATION.—

(i) If the Secretary determines a covered institution is in compliance with the standards finalized under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall designate the institution as a “Federally Recognized Fire-Safe Campus”.

(ii) If the Secretary determines a covered institution is not in compliance with the standards finalized under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall designate the institution as a “Not Federally Recognized Fire-Safe Campus”.

(D) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make the assessments submitted under subparagraph (A) and the degree of compliance determined under subparagraph (B) publicly available on a website of the Department of Education in a form that is easily accessible and understandable.

1 (2) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.—

2 Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
3 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 “(30) The institution will comply with the re-
6 quirements of the Seton Hall Fire Victims Remem-
7 brance Act of 2026.”.

8 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
9 Act shall be construed as to eliminate the ability of
10 covered institutions designated under subparagraph
11 (D)(ii) to participate in programs authorized under
12 subchapter IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965
13 only because the covered institution was designated
14 under subparagraph (D)(ii).

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The term “appli-
17 cable program” has the meaning given such term in
18 section 400(c) of the General Education Provisions
19 Act (20 U.S.C. 1221(c)).

20 (2) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term “cov-
21 ered institution” means an institution of higher edu-
22 cation that receives funds under an applicable pro-
23 gram.

24 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

- 1 meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-
- 2 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

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