

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7689

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide basic and emergency supplemental living assistance grants under the student support services program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide basic and emergency supplemental living assistance grants under the student support services program.

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 “Earl N. Williams, Sr.,
5 First Chance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPLEMENTAL LIVING ASSISTANCE IN THE STU-**
7 **DENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM.**

8 Section 402D of the Higher Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–14) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at
3 the end;

4 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking the pe-
5 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(7) basic and emergency supplemental living
8 assistance grants in accordance with subsection
9 (f).”; and

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

11 “(f) BASIC AND EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL LIV-
12 ING ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the activi-
14 ties required under subsection (b)(7) with a grant
15 received under this section, the recipient of such
16 grant shall provide basic and emergency supple-
17 mental living assistance grants to assist students
18 who are current participants in the student support
19 services program offered by the institution (in this
20 subsection referred to as ‘eligible students’)—

21 “(A) in the case of a basic supplemental
22 living assistance grant, in covering reasonable,
23 anticipated expenses necessary for the comple-
24 tion of an academic year of the students’ first

1 undergraduate baccalaureate course of study;
2 and

3 “(B) in the case of an emergency supple-
4 mental living assistance grant, in covering rea-
5 sonable, unanticipated expenses necessary for
6 the students to persist in college during such
7 academic year.

8 “(2) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The recipient may
9 determine—

10 “(A) the appropriate division of the funds
11 between basic and emergency supplemental as-
12 sistance grants, except that funds shall be pro-
13 vided for both basic and emergency grants;

14 “(B) the amount of each such grant and
15 the total grant funds that an eligible student
16 may receive, except that the maximum amount
17 that a student may receive in emergency sup-
18 plemental assistance grants may not exceed—

19 “(i) for academic year 2027–2028,
20 \$500; and

21 “(ii) for academic year 2028–2029
22 and each succeeding academic year, the
23 maximum amount in emergency supple-
24 mental assistance grants that a student
25 may receive for the preceding academic

1 year, as determined under this subpara-
2 graph, increased by a percentage equal to
3 the estimated percentage change increase
4 in the Consumer Price Index (as deter-
5 mined by the Secretary, using the defini-
6 tion in section 478(f)); and

7 “(C) the anticipated and unanticipated ex-
8 penses referred to in paragraph (1) that such
9 grants will cover based on the needs of eligible
10 students, which—

11 “(i) may vary by factors including
12 academic year, housing, parental status, lo-
13 cation in urban or rural area, or other cir-
14 cumstances; and

15 “(ii) for an individual student, may
16 cover—

17 “(I) any component of the cost of
18 attendance for the student;

19 “(II) an allowance for actual or
20 expected expenses incurred for de-
21 pendent care that exceeds such ex-
22 penses determined for the student
23 under section 472(a)(9);

24 “(III) an allowance for actual or
25 expected expenses for transportation

1 that exceeds such expenses deter-
2 mined for the student under section
3 472; and

4 “(IV) personal items or expenses
5 not otherwise covered by the cost of
6 attendance for the student.

7 “(3) PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FUNDS.—The re-
8 cipient may use not more than 2 percent of the
9 funds awarded under this section for grants under
10 this subsection.

11 “(4) DETERMINATION OF NEED.—A grant pro-
12 vided to a student under this subsection shall not be
13 considered in determining that student’s need for
14 grant or work assistance under this title, except that
15 in no case shall the total amount of student financial
16 assistance awarded to a student under this title for
17 an academic year exceed that student’s cost of at-
18 tendance by more than the maximum amount that
19 such student may receive in emergency supplemental
20 assistance under paragraph (2)(B) for such aca-
21 demic year.

22 “(5) CONSULTATION.—In making grants to
23 students under this subsection, an institution shall
24 ensure that adequate consultation takes place be-

1 tween the student support service program office
2 and the institution’s financial aid office.

3 “(6) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds re-
4 ceived by a grant recipient that are used under this
5 subsection shall be used to supplement, and not sup-
6 plant, non-Federal funds expended for student sup-
7 port services programs.

8 “(7) FUNDS.—For a fiscal year for which the
9 funds allocated for projects authorized under this
10 section from the amounts appropriated pursuant to
11 the authority of section 402A(g) exceeds the funds
12 allocated for such purpose for fiscal year 2027, not
13 more than 2 percent of such excess funds may be
14 made available for grants under this subsection.

15 “(8) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
16 ‘cost of attendance’ has the meaning given the term
17 in section 472.”.

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