

Union Calendar No. 700

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9203

[Report No. 119–800]

To increase the transparency of colleges and universities in carrying out their civil rights responsibilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Ms. GILLEN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Additional sponsor: Mr. GOTTHEIMER

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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 *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 8, 2026]

A BILL

To increase the transparency of colleges and universities in carrying out their civil rights responsibilities, 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 “Student Protection and
 5 University Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE AND TRANSPARENCY RELATED TO**
 7 **TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.**

8 (a) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT RE-
 9 QUIREMENT.—Section 487 of the Higher Education Act
 10 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as
 12 subsections (j) and (k), respectively;

13 (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
 14 following new paragraph:

15 “(30) The institution will comply with the pro-
 16 visions of subsection (i) and provide to the Secretary
 17 an annual attestation of such compliance.”; and

18 (3) by inserting after subsection (h) the fol-
 19 lowing new subsection:

20 “(i) COMPLIANCE AND TRANSPARENCY RELATED TO
 21 COMPLAINTS UNDER TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS
 22 ACT OF 1964.—

23 “(1) COMPLIANCE AND TRANSPARENCY.—With
 24 respect to complaints received by an institution re-
 25 lated to alleged violations of title VI of the Civil

1 Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), the
2 institution shall take the following actions:

3 “(A) Have in effect investigative processes
4 related to such complaints, which shall include
5 each of the elements listed in clauses (i)
6 through (vi) of subparagraph (B), and make
7 publicly available (including on the website of
8 the institution), and widely distribute to stu-
9 dents and their families (including in student
10 orientation materials), a description of such in-
11 vestigative processes.

12 “(B) Include in the investigative processes
13 described in subparagraph (A) at least the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(i) The processes and factors used to
16 determine whether such complaints will be
17 investigated by the institution and how the
18 outcome of an investigation will be deter-
19 mined.

20 “(ii) A designation of at least one em-
21 ployee to coordinate its efforts to comply
22 with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
23 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), including
24 any investigation of such complaints.

1 “(iii) A procedure to ensure that, for
2 each such complaint received by the insti-
3 tution, the complainant will receive from
4 the institution—

5 “(I) not later than 30 days after
6 receipt of such complaint—

7 “(aa) notification of the re-
8 ceipt of the complaint;

9 “(bb) notification of whether
10 or not an investigation has been
11 opened in response to the com-
12 plaint;

13 “(cc) in the case that an in-
14 vestigation is not opened in re-
15 sponse to the complaint, an ex-
16 planation of why an investigation
17 was not opened, including a sum-
18 mary of the information that was
19 used to determine that an inves-
20 tigation should not be opened;
21 and

22 “(dd) in the case that an in-
23 vestigation is opened, notification
24 that an investigation of the com-
25 plaint will be carried out and

1 that the complainant will be noti-
2 fied of the outcome of the inves-
3 tigation; and

4 “(II) not later than 30 days after
5 an outcome of an investigation is
6 reached, notification of the outcome of
7 the investigation, including an expla-
8 nation of how the outcome was
9 reached, and any remedial actions
10 taken in response to the complaint.

11 “(iv) A system for keeping and main-
12 taining records of such complaints, includ-
13 ing the determination and reasoning for
14 whether or not an investigation into a com-
15 plaint was opened by the institution, notifi-
16 cations to and communications with the
17 complainant and, if applicable, the re-
18 spondent, a record of the investigation (in-
19 cluding the outcome thereof), and a record
20 of any remedial actions taken in response
21 to the complaint.

22 “(v) The contact information and nec-
23 essary steps for reporting such complaints
24 to the institution.

1 “(vi) The contact information and
2 necessary steps for reporting a complaint
3 related to an alleged violation of title VI of
4 the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.
5 2000d et seq.) to the Office for Civil
6 Rights of the Department of Education,
7 including the hyperlink to the electronic
8 complaint form of the Office for Civil
9 Rights for an alleged violation of such title.

10 “(C) With respect to public awareness
11 campaign materials created and distributed by
12 the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of
13 Education relating to protections for individuals
14 under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
15 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), display and publish
16 such materials, as applicable—

17 “(i) not later than 30 days after such
18 materials are distributed;

19 “(ii) for not less than 1 year or until
20 new such materials are distributed, which-
21 ever is later;

22 “(iii) in high traffic, public places on
23 the campus of the institution; and

24 “(iv) on a publicly available website of
25 the institution.

1 “(2) ENFORCEMENT.—An institution of higher
2 education that fails to comply with the provisions of
3 subsection (a)(30) for two consecutive award years
4 shall be ineligible to participate in the programs au-
5 thorized by this title for a period of not less than the
6 first two subsequent award years. To regain eligi-
7 bility to participate in the programs authorized by
8 this title, an institution of higher education shall
9 demonstrate compliance with paragraph (1) prior to
10 the completion of the period during which the insti-
11 tution is ineligible due to failure to comply with such
12 paragraph.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first
15 award year (as such term is defined in section 481 of the
16 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088)) begin-
17 ning after the date of enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 3. OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS.**

19 (a) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 30
21 days after the date of enactment of this Act and
22 ending 2 years after such date of enactment, the As-
23 sistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department
24 of Education (or the designee of such Assistant Sec-
25 retary) shall provide a briefing, on a bimonthly

1 basis, to the authorizing committees about com-
2 plaints alleging discrimination on the basis of race,
3 color, or national origin in violation of title VI of the
4 Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.)
5 that have been received by the Office for Civil
6 Rights of the Department of Education in the pre-
7 ceding month—

8 (A) in a manner that—

9 (i) protects personally identifiable in-
10 formation; and

11 (ii) disaggregates information by the
12 basis of such alleged discrimination (in-
13 cluding shared ancestry); and

14 (B) that includes—

15 (i) the number of such complaints;

16 (ii) a description of—

17 (I) how the Office has addressed
18 or plans to address such complaints;
19 and

20 (II) the investigations being car-
21 ried out in response to such com-
22 plaints, as applicable; and

23 (iii) data about the length of such in-
24 vestigations.

1 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 48 hours prior to
2 each briefing required under paragraph (1), the As-
3 sistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department
4 of Education (or the designee of such Assistant Sec-
5 retary) shall submit to the authorizing committees a
6 written report that contains the information that will
7 be presented at such briefing and that complies with
8 the requirements of paragraph (1)(A).

9 (3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
10 section:

11 (A) AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.—The
12 term “authorizing committees” means the Com-
13 mittee on Education and Workforce of the
14 House of Representatives and the Committee
15 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
16 the Senate.

17 (B) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means
18 the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of
19 Education.

20 (b) OCR PROCESS REFORMS.—

21 (1) DISMISSALS.—The Office may not close or
22 dismiss any complaint regarding discrimination on
23 the basis of race, color, or national origin in viola-
24 tion of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
25 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) due to the filing of a com-

1 plaint involving the same allegations against the
2 same recipient—

3 (A) by an individual other than the com-
4 plainant with another Federal, State, or local
5 agency, a court, or the recipient, unless the Of-
6 fice determines that—

7 (i) a court has certified a class action
8 with respect to the alleged violation of such
9 other individual’s complaint;

10 (ii) such other individual is a member
11 of such class; and

12 (iii) the complainant is a member of
13 such class; or

14 (B) by the complainant with another Fed-
15 eral, State, or local agency, a court, or the re-
16 cipient.

17 (2) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Office may not
18 delay an investigation of a complaint due to the fil-
19 ing of a complaint involving the same allegations
20 against the same recipient with another Federal,
21 State, or local agency or the recipient.

22 (3) RECIPIENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this
23 subsection, the term “recipient” means an institu-
24 tion of higher education (as such term is defined in
25 section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965

1 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) that receives funds under an ap-
2 plicable program (as such term is defined in section
3 400 of the General Education Provisions Act (20
4 U.S.C. 1221)).

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