

Calendar No. 537

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 2511**

To establish a postsecondary student data system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2025

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

AUGUST 4, 2026

Reported by Mr. CASSIDY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]**A BILL**

To establish a postsecondary student data system.

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 “College Transparency
 5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA SYSTEM.**

2 Section 132 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
3 U.S.C. 1015a) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection
5 (m); and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (k) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(l) POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA SYSTEM.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

10 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM.—Not
11 later than 4 years after the date of enactment
12 of the College Transparency Act, the Commis-
13 sioner of the National Center for Education
14 Statistics (referred to in this subsection as the
15 ‘Commissioner’) shall develop and maintain a
16 secure and privacy-protected postsecondary stu-
17 dent-level data system in order to—

18 “(i) accurately evaluate student en-
19 rollment patterns, progression, completion,
20 and postcollegiate outcomes; and higher
21 education costs and financial aid;

22 “(ii) assist with transparency, institu-
23 tional improvement, and analysis of Fed-
24 eral aid programs;

25 “(iii) provide accurate, complete, and
26 customizable information for students and

families making decisions about postsecondary education; and

“(iv) reduce the reporting burden on institutions of higher education, in accordance with section 5 of the College Transparency Act.

“(B) AVOIDING DUPLICATED REPORTING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, to the extent that another provision of this section requires the same reporting or collection of data that is required under this subsection, an institution of higher education, or the Secretary or Commissioner, shall use the reporting or data required for the postsecondary student data system under this subsection to satisfy both requirements.

“(C) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.—In developing the postsecondary student data system described in this subsection, the Commissioner shall—

“(i) focus on the needs of—

“(I) users of the data system;

and

1 “(H) entities, including institu-
2 tions of higher education, reporting to
3 the data system;

4 “(ii) take into consideration, to the
5 extent practicable—

6 “(I) the guidelines outlined in the
7 U.S. Web Design Standards main-
8 tained by the General Services Admin-
9 stration and the Digital Services
10 Playbook and TechFAR Handbook for
11 Procuring Digital Services Using
12 Agile Processes of the U.S. Digital
13 Service; and

14 “(II) the relevant successor docu-
15 ments or recommendations of such
16 guidelines;

17 “(iii) use modern, relevant privacy-
18 and security-enhancing technology, and en-
19 hance and update the data system as nec-
20 essary to carry out the purpose of this sub-
21 section;

22 “(iv) ensure data privacy and security
23 is consistent with any relevant Federal law
24 relating to privacy or data security, includ-
25 ing—

1 “(I) the requirements of sub-
2 chapter II of chapter 35 of title 44,
3 United States Code, specifying secu-
4 rity categorization under the Federal
5 Information Processing Standards or
6 any relevant successor of such stand-
7 ards;

8 “(II) security requirements that
9 are consistent with the Federal agency
10 responsibilities in section 3554 of title
11 44, United States Code, or any rel-
12 evant successor of such responsibil-
13 ities; and

14 “(III) security requirements,
15 guidelines, and controls consistent
16 with cybersecurity standards and best
17 practices developed by the National
18 Institute of Standards and Tech-
19 nology, including frameworks, con-
20 sistent with section 2(e) of the Na-
21 tional Institute of Standards and
22 Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(e)), or
23 any relevant successor of such frame-
24 works;

“(v) follow Federal data minimization practices to ensure only the minimum amount of data is collected to meet the system’s goals, in accordance with Federal data minimization standards and guidelines developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

“(vi) provide notice to students outlining the data included in the system and how the data are used.

“(2) DATA ELEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the College Transparency Act, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Postsecondary Student Data System Advisory Committee established under subparagraph (B), shall determine—

“(i) the data elements to be included in the postsecondary student data system, in accordance with subparagraphs (C) and (D); and

“(ii) how to include the data elements required under subparagraph (C), and any additional data elements selected under

subparagraph (D), in the postsecondary student data system.

~~“(B) POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—~~

~~“(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the College Transparency Act, the Commissioner shall establish a Postsecondary Student Data System Advisory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Advisory Committee’), whose members shall include—~~

~~“(I) the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department or an official of the Department delegated the duties of overseeing data privacy at the Department;~~

~~“(II) the Chief Security Officer of the Department or an official of the Department delegated the duties of overseeing data security at the Department;~~

~~“(III) representatives of diverse institutions of higher education, which shall include equal representation be-~~

tween 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education, and from public, nonprofit, and proprietary institutions of higher education, including minority-serving institutions;

“(IV) representatives from State higher education agencies, entities, bodies, or boards;

“(V) representatives of postsecondary students;

“(VI) representatives from relevant Federal agencies;

“(VII) individuals with expertise in data privacy and security; and

“(VIII) other stakeholders (including individuals with consumer protection and postsecondary education research).

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The Commissioner shall ensure that the Advisory Committee—

“(I) adheres to all requirements under chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Federal Advisory Committee Act’);

1 “(H) establishes operating and
2 meeting procedures and guidelines
3 necessary to execute its advisory du-
4 ties; and

5 “(III) is provided with appro-
6 priate staffing and resources to exe-
7 cute its advisory duties.

8 “(C) REQUIRED DATA ELEMENTS.—The
9 data elements in the postsecondary student
10 data system shall include, at a minimum, the
11 following:

12 “(i) Student-level data elements nec-
13 essary to calculate the information within
14 the surveys designated by the Commis-
15 sioner as ‘student-related surveys’ in the
16 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data
17 System (IPEDS), as such surveys are in
18 effect on the day before the date of enact-
19 ment of the College Transparency Act, ex-
20 cept that in the case that collection of such
21 elements would conflict with subparagraph
22 (F), such elements in conflict with sub-
23 paragraph (F) shall be included in the ag-
24 gregate instead of at the student level.

1 “(ii) Student-level data elements nec-
2 essary to allow for reporting student en-
3 rollment, persistence, retention, transfer,
4 and completion measures for all credential
5 levels separately (including certificate, as-
6 sociate, baccalaureate, and advanced de-
7 gree levels); within and across institutions
8 of higher education (including across all
9 categories of institution level, control, and
10 predominant degree awarded). The data
11 elements shall allow for reporting about all
12 such data disaggregated by the following
13 categories:

14 “(I) Enrollment status as a first-
15 time student, recent transfer student,
16 or other non-first-time student.

17 “(II) Attendance intensity,
18 whether full-time or part-time.

19 “(III) Credential-seeking status,
20 by credential level.

21 “(IV) Race or ethnicity, in a
22 manner that captures all the racial
23 groups specified in the most recent
24 American Community Survey of the
25 Bureau of the Census.

1 ~~“(V) Age intervals.~~

2 ~~“(VI) Gender.~~

3 ~~“(VII) Program of study (as ap-~~
4 ~~plicable).~~

5 ~~“(VIII) Military or veteran ben-~~
6 ~~efit status (as determined based on~~
7 ~~receipt of veteran’s education benefits;~~
8 ~~as defined in section 480(e)).~~

9 ~~“(IX) Status as a distance edu-~~
10 ~~cation student, whether exclusively or~~
11 ~~partially enrolled in distance edu-~~
12 ~~cation.~~

13 ~~“(X) Federal Pell Grant recipient~~
14 ~~status under section 401 and Federal~~
15 ~~loan recipient status under title IV,~~
16 ~~provided that the collection of such in-~~
17 ~~formation complies with paragraph~~
18 ~~(1)(B).~~

19 ~~“(D) OTHER DATA ELEMENTS.—~~

20 ~~“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner~~
21 ~~may, after consultation with the Advisory~~
22 ~~Committee and provision of a public com-~~
23 ~~ment period, include additional data ele-~~
24 ~~ments in the postsecondary student data~~

1 system, such as those described in clause
 2 (ii), if those data elements—

3 “(I) are necessary to ensure that
 4 the postsecondary data system fulfills
 5 the purposes described in paragraph
 6 (1)(A); and

7 “(II) are consistent with data
 8 minimization principles, including the
 9 collection of only those additional ele-
 10 ments that are necessary to ensure
 11 such purposes.

12 “(ii) DATA ELEMENTS.—The data ele-
 13 ments described in clause (i) may in-
 14 clude—

15 “(I) status as a first generation
 16 college student, as defined in section
 17 402A(h);

18 “(II) economic status;

19 “(III) participation in postsec-
 20 ondary remedial coursework or gate-
 21 way course completion; or

22 “(IV) other data elements that
 23 are necessary in accordance with
 24 clause (i).

1 “(E) REEVALUATION.—Not less than once
 2 every 3 years after the implementation of the
 3 postsecondary student data system described in
 4 this subsection, the Commissioner, in consulta-
 5 tion with the Advisory Committee described in
 6 subparagraph (B), shall review the data ele-
 7 ments included in the postsecondary student
 8 data system and may revise the data elements
 9 to be included in such system.

10 “(F) PROHIBITIONS.—The Commissioner
 11 shall not include individual health data (includ-
 12 ing data relating to physical health or mental
 13 health), student discipline records or data, ele-
 14 mentary and secondary education data, an
 15 exact address, citizenship status, migrant sta-
 16 tus, or national origin status for students or
 17 their families, course grades, postsecondary en-
 18 trance examination results, political affiliation,
 19 or religion in the postsecondary student data
 20 system under this subsection.

21 “(3) PERIODIC MATCHING WITH OTHER FED-
 22 ERAL DATA SYSTEMS.—

23 “(A) DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS.—

24 “(i) The Commissioner shall ensure
 25 secure and privacy-protected periodic data

1 matches by entering into data sharing
2 agreements with each of the following Fed-
3 eral agencies and offices:

4 “(I) The Secretary of the Treas-
5 ury and the Commissioner of the In-
6 ternal Revenue Service, in order to
7 calculate aggregate program- and in-
8 stitution-level earnings of postsec-
9 ondary students.

10 “(II) The Secretary of Defense,
11 in order to assess the use of postsec-
12 ondary educational benefits and the
13 outcomes of servicemembers.

14 “(III) The Secretary of Veterans
15 Affairs, in order to assess the use of
16 postsecondary educational benefits
17 and outcomes of veterans.

18 “(IV) The Director of the Bu-
19 reau of the Census, in order to assess
20 the earnings outcomes of former post-
21 secondary education students.

22 “(V) The Chief Operating Officer
23 of the Office of Federal Student Aid,
24 in order to analyze the use of postsec-

1 ondary educational benefits provided
2 under this Act.

3 “(VI) The Commissioner of the
4 Social Security Administration, in
5 order to evaluate labor market out-
6 comes of former postsecondary edu-
7 cation students.

8 “(VII) The Commissioner of the
9 Bureau of Labor Statistics, in order
10 to assess the wages of former postsec-
11 ondary education students.

12 “(ii) The heads of Federal agencies
13 and offices described under clause (i) shall
14 enter into data sharing agreements with
15 the Commissioner to ensure secure and
16 privacy-protected periodic data matches as
17 described in this paragraph.

18 “(B) CATEGORIES OF DATA.—The Com-
19 missioner shall, at a minimum, seek to ensure
20 that the secure and privacy-protected periodic
21 data matches described in subparagraph (A)
22 permit consistent reporting of the following cat-
23 egories of data for all postsecondary students:

1 “(i) Enrollment, retention, transfer,
2 and completion outcomes for all postsec-
3 ondary students.

4 “(ii) Financial indicators for postsec-
5 ondary students receiving Federal grants
6 and loans, including grant and loan aid by
7 source, cumulative student debt, loan re-
8 payment status, and repayment plan.

9 “(iii) Post-completion outcomes for all
10 postsecondary students, including earnings,
11 employment, and further education, by
12 program of study and credential level and
13 as measured—

14 “(I) immediately after leaving
15 postsecondary education; and

16 “(H) at time intervals appro-
17 priate to the credential sought and
18 earned.

19 “(C) PERIODIC DATA MATCH STREAM-
20 LINING AND CONFIDENTIALITY.—

21 “(i) STREAMLINING.—In carrying out
22 the secure and privacy-protected periodic
23 data matches under this paragraph, the
24 Commissioner shall—

1 “(I) ensure that such matches
2 are not continuous, but occur only pe-
3 riodically at appropriate intervals, as
4 determined by the Commissioner to
5 meet the goals of subparagraph (A);
6 and

7 “(H) seek to—

8 “(aa) streamline the data
9 collection and reporting require-
10 ments for institutions of higher
11 education;

12 “(bb) minimize duplicative
13 reporting across or within Fed-
14 eral agencies or departments, in-
15 cluding reporting requirements
16 applicable to institutions of high-
17 er education under the Workforce
18 Innovation and Opportunity Act
19 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) and the
20 Carl D. Perkins Career and
21 Technical Education Act of 2006;

22 “(cc) protect student pri-
23 vacy; and

24 “(dd) streamline the applica-
25 tion process for student loan ben-

1 efit programs available to bor-
2 rowers based on data available
3 from different Federal data sys-
4 tems.

5 “(ii) REVIEW.—Not less often than
6 once every 3 years after the establishment
7 of the postsecondary student data system
8 under this subsection, the Commissioner,
9 in consultation with the Advisory Com-
10 mittee, shall review methods for stream-
11 lining data collection from institutions of
12 higher education and minimizing duplica-
13 tive reporting within the Department and
14 across Federal agencies that provide data
15 for the postsecondary student data system.

16 “(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Com-
17 missioner shall ensure that any periodic
18 matching or sharing of data through peri-
19 odic data system matches established in
20 accordance with this paragraph—

21 “(I) complies with the security
22 and privacy protections described in
23 paragraph (1)(C)(iv) and other Fed-
24 eral data protection protocols;

1 “(H) follows industry best prac-
 2 tices commensurate with the sensi-
 3 tivity of specific data elements or
 4 metrics;

5 “(III) does not result in the ere-
 6 ation of a single standing, linked Fed-
 7 eral database at the Department that
 8 maintains the information reported
 9 across other Federal agencies; and

10 “(IV) discloses to postsecondary
 11 students what data are included in the
 12 data system and periodically matched
 13 and how the data are used.

14 “(iv) CORRECTION.—The Commis-
 15 sioner, in consultation with the Advisory
 16 Committee, shall establish a process for
 17 students to request access to only their
 18 personal information for inspection and re-
 19 quest corrections to inaccuracies in a man-
 20 ner that protects the student’s personally
 21 identifiable information. The Commissioner
 22 shall respond in writing to every request
 23 for a correction from a student.

24 “(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner
2 shall make the summary aggregate information
3 described in subparagraph (C), at a minimum,
4 publicly available through a user-friendly con-
5 sumer information website and analytic tool
6 that—

7 “(i) provides appropriate mechanisms
8 for users to customize and filter informa-
9 tion by institutional and student character-
10 istics;

11 “(ii) allows users to build summary
12 aggregate reports of information, including
13 reports that allow comparisons across mul-
14 tiple institutions and programs, subject to
15 subparagraph (B);

16 “(iii) uses appropriate statistical dis-
17 closure limitation techniques necessary to
18 ensure that the data released to the public
19 cannot be used to identify specific individ-
20 uals; and

21 “(iv) provides users with appropriate
22 contextual factors to make comparisons,
23 which may include national median figures
24 of the summary aggregate information de-
25 scribed in subparagraph (C).

1 “(B) NO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE IN-
 2 FORMATION AVAILABLE.—The summary aggre-
 3 gate information described in this paragraph
 4 shall not include personally identifiable informa-
 5 tion.

6 “(C) SUMMARY AGGREGATE INFORMATION
 7 AVAILABLE.—The summary aggregate informa-
 8 tion described in this paragraph shall, at a min-
 9 imum, include each of the following for each in-
 10 stitution of higher education:

11 “(i) Measures of student access, in-
 12 cluding—

13 “(I) admissions selectivity and
 14 yield; and

15 “(II) enrollment, disaggregated
 16 by each category described in para-
 17 graph (2)(C)(ii).

18 “(ii) Measures of student progression,
 19 including retention rates and persistence
 20 rates, disaggregated by each category de-
 21 scribed in paragraph (2)(C)(ii).

22 “(iii) Measures of student completion,
 23 including—

24 “(I) transfer rates and comple-
 25 tion rates, disaggregated by each cat-

1 category described in paragraph
2 (2)(C)(ii); and

3 “(H) number of completions,
4 disaggregated by each category de-
5 scribed in paragraph (2)(C)(ii).

6 “(iv) Measures of student costs, in-
7 cluding—

8 “(I) tuition, required fees, total
9 cost of attendance, and net price after
10 total grant aid, disaggregated by in-
11 State tuition or in-district tuition sta-
12 tus (if applicable), program of study
13 (if applicable), and credential level;
14 and

15 “(H) typical grant amounts and
16 loan amounts received by students re-
17 ported separately from Federal, State,
18 local, and institutional sources, and
19 cumulative debt, disaggregated by
20 each category described in paragraph
21 (2)(C)(ii) and completion status.

22 “(v) Measures of postcollegiate stu-
23 dent outcomes, including employment
24 rates, mean and median earnings, loan re-

1 payment and default rates, and further
 2 education rates. These measures shall—

3 “(I) be disaggregated by each
 4 category described in paragraph
 5 (2)(C)(ii) and completion status; and

6 “(II) be measured immediately
 7 after leaving postsecondary education
 8 and at time intervals appropriate to
 9 the credential sought or earned.

10 “(D) DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA.—In devel-
 11 oping the method and format of making the in-
 12 formation described in this paragraph publicly
 13 available, the Commissioner shall—

14 “(i) focus on the needs of the users of
 15 the information, which will include stu-
 16 dents, families of students, potential stu-
 17 dents, researchers, and other consumers of
 18 education data;

19 “(ii) take into consideration, to the
 20 extent practicable, the guidelines described
 21 in paragraph (1)(C)(ii)(I), and relevant
 22 successor documents or recommendations
 23 of such guidelines;

24 “(iii) use modern, relevant technology
 25 and enhance and update the postsecondary

1 student data system with information, as
 2 necessary to carry out the purpose of this
 3 paragraph;

4 “(iv) ensure data privacy and security
 5 in accordance with standards and guide-
 6 lines developed by the National Institute of
 7 Standards and Technology, and in accord-
 8 ance with any other Federal law relating to
 9 privacy or security, including complying
 10 with the requirements of subchapter H of
 11 chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code,
 12 specifying security categorization under the
 13 Federal Information Processing Standards,
 14 and security requirements, and setting of
 15 National Institute of Standards and Tech-
 16 nology security baseline controls at the ap-
 17 propriate level; and

18 “(v) conduct consumer testing to de-
 19 termine how to make the information as
 20 meaningful to users as possible.

21 ~~“(5) PERMISSIBLE DISCLOSURES OF DATA.—~~

22 ~~“(A) DATA REPORTS AND QUERIES.—~~

23 ~~“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4~~
 24 ~~years after the date of enactment of the~~
 25 ~~College Transparency Act, the Commis-~~

sioner shall develop and implement a secure and privacy-protected process for making student-level, non-personally identifiable information, with direct identifiers removed, from the postsecondary student data system available for vetted research and evaluation purposes approved by the Commissioner in a manner compatible with practices for disclosing National Center for Education Statistics restricted-use survey data as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the College Transparency Act, or by applying other research and disclosure restrictions to ensure data privacy and security. Such process shall be approved by the National Center for Education Statistics' Disclosure Review Board (or successor body).

“(ii) PROVIDING DATA REPORTS AND QUERIES TO INSTITUTIONS AND STATES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner shall provide feedback reports, at least annually, to each institution of higher education, each postsecondary education system that fully

1 participates in the postsecondary stu-
2 dent data system, and each State
3 higher education body as designated
4 by the governor.

5 “(II) FEEDBACK REPORTS.—The
6 feedback reports provided under this
7 clause shall include program-level and
8 institution-level information from the
9 postsecondary student data system re-
10 garding students who are associated
11 with the institution or, for State rep-
12 resentatives, the institutions within
13 that State, on or before the date of
14 the report, on measures including stu-
15 dent mobility and workforce outcomes,
16 provided that the feedback aggregate
17 summary reports protect the privacy
18 of individuals.

19 “(III) DETERMINATION OF CON-
20 TENT.—The content of the feedback
21 reports shall be determined by the
22 Commissioner in consultation with the
23 Advisory Committee.

24 “(iii) PERMITTING STATE DATA QUE-
25 RIES.—The Commissioner shall, in con-

1 sultation with the Advisory Committee and
2 as soon as practicable, create a process
3 through which States may submit lists of
4 secondary school graduates within the
5 State to receive summary aggregate out-
6 comes for those students who enrolled at
7 an institution of higher education, includ-
8 ing postsecondary enrollment and college
9 completion, provided that those data pro-
10 tect the privacy of individuals and that the
11 State data submitted to the Commissioner
12 are not stored in the postsecondary edu-
13 cation system.

14 “(iv) REGULATIONS.—The Commis-
15 sioner shall promulgate regulations to en-
16 sure fair, secure and privacy-protected, and
17 equitable access to data reports and que-
18 ries under this paragraph.

19 “(B) DISCLOSURE LIMITATIONS.—In ear-
20 rying out the public reporting and disclosure re-
21 quirements of this subsection, the Commis-
22 sioner shall use appropriate statistical disclo-
23 sure limitation techniques necessary to ensure
24 that the data released to the public cannot in-

clude personally identifiable information or be used to identify specific individuals.

~~“(C) SALE OF DATA PROHIBITED.—Data collected under this subsection, including the public-use data set and data comprising the summary aggregate information available under paragraph (4), shall not be sold to any third party by the Commissioner, including any institution of higher education or any other entity.~~

~~“(D) LIMITATION ON USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—~~

~~“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner shall not allow any other Federal agency to use data collected under this subsection for any purpose except—~~

~~“(I) for vetted research and evaluation conducted by the other Federal agency, as described in subparagraph (A)(i); or~~

~~“(II) for a purpose explicitly authorized by this Act.~~

~~“(ii) PROHIBITION ON LIMITATION OF SERVICES.—The Secretary, or the head of any other Federal agency, shall not use~~

1 data collected under this subsection to
2 limit services to students.

3 “(E) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Personally
4 identifiable information collected under this
5 subsection shall not be used for any Federal,
6 State, or local law enforcement activity or any
7 other activity that would result in adverse ac-
8 tion against any student or a student’s family,
9 including debt collection activity or enforcement
10 of immigration laws.

11 “(F) LIMITATION OF USE FOR FEDERAL
12 RANKINGS OR SUMMATIVE RATING SYSTEM.—
13 The comprehensive data collection and analysis
14 necessary for the postsecondary student data
15 system under this subsection shall not be used
16 by the Secretary or any Federal entity to estab-
17 lish any Federal ranking system of institutions
18 of higher education or a system that results in
19 a summative Federal rating of institutions of
20 higher education.

21 “(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
22 in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent
23 the use of individual categories of aggregate in-
24 formation to be used for accountability pur-
25 poses.

1 “(H) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING
2 COMMERCIAL USE OF DATA.—Nothing in this
3 paragraph shall be construed to prohibit third-
4 party entities from using publicly available in-
5 formation in this data system for commercial
6 use.

7 “(6) SUBMISSION OF DATA.—

8 “(A) REQUIRED SUBMISSION.—Each insti-
9 tution of higher education participating in a
10 program under title IV, or the assigned agent
11 of such institution, shall, for each eligible pro-
12 gram, in accordance with section 487(a)(17),
13 collect, and submit to the Commissioner, the
14 data requested by the Commissioner to carry
15 out this subsection.

16 “(B) VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION.—Any insti-
17 tution of higher education not participating in
18 a program under title IV may voluntarily par-
19 ticipate in the postsecondary student data sys-
20 tem under this subsection by collecting and sub-
21 mitting data to the Commissioner, as the Com-
22 missioner may request to carry out this sub-
23 section.

24 “(C) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFOR-
25 MATION.—In accordance with paragraph

1 ~~(2)(C)(i)~~, if the submission of an element of
 2 student-level data is prohibited under para-
 3 graph ~~(2)(F)~~ (or otherwise prohibited by law);
 4 the institution of higher education shall submit
 5 that data to the Commissioner in the aggregate.

6 ~~“(7) UNLAWFUL WILLFUL DISCLOSURE.—~~

7 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—~~It shall be unlawful
 8 for any person who obtains or has access to
 9 personally identifiable information in connection
 10 with the postsecondary student data system de-
 11 scribed in this subsection to willfully disclose to
 12 any person (except as authorized in this Act or
 13 by any Federal law) such personally identifiable
 14 information.

15 ~~“(B) PENALTY.—~~Any person who violates
 16 subparagraph (A) shall be subject to a penalty
 17 described under section 3572(f) of title 44,
 18 United States Code, and section 183(d)(6) of
 19 the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20
 20 U.S.C. 9573(d)(6)).

21 ~~“(C) EMPLOYEE OR OFFICER OF THE~~
 22 UNITED STATES.—If a violation of subpara-
 23 graph (A) is committed by any officer or em-
 24 ployee of the United States, the officer or em-
 25 ployee shall be dismissed from office or dis-

1 charged from employment upon conviction for
2 the violation.

3 ~~“(8) DATA SECURITY.—~~The Commissioner shall
4 produce and update as needed guidance and regula-
5 tions relating to privacy, security, and access which
6 shall govern the use and disclosure of data collected
7 in connection with the activities authorized in this
8 subsection. The guidance and regulations developed
9 and reviewed shall protect data from unauthorized
10 access, use, and disclosure, and shall include—

11 “(A) an audit capability, including manda-
12 tory and regularly conducted audits;

13 “(B) access controls;

14 “(C) requirements to ensure sufficient data
15 security, quality, validity, and reliability;

16 “(D) confidentiality protection in accord-
17 ance with the applicable provisions of sub-
18 chapter III of chapter 35 of title 44, United
19 States Code;

20 “(E) appropriate and applicable privacy
21 and security protection, including data retention
22 and destruction protocols and data minimiza-
23 tion, in accordance with the most recent Fed-
24 eral standards developed by the National Insti-
25 tute of Standards and Technology; and

1 “(F) protocols for managing a breach, in-
 2 cluding breach notifications, in accordance with
 3 the standards of National Center for Education
 4 Statistics.

5 “(9) DATA COLLECTION.—The Commissioner
 6 shall ensure that data collection, maintenance, and
 7 use under this subsection complies with section 552a
 8 of title 5, United States Code.

9 “(10) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 “(A) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
 11 CATION.—The term ‘institution of higher edu-
 12 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
 13 tion 102.

14 “(B) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—
 15 The term ‘minority-serving institution’ means
 16 an institution of higher education listed in sec-
 17 tion 371(a).

18 “(C) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFOR-
 19 MATION.—The term ‘personally identifiable in-
 20 formation’ means personally identifiable infor-
 21 mation within the meaning of section 444 of the
 22 General Education Provisions Act.”

1 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON STUDENT DATA SYS-**
 2 **TEM.**

3 Section 134 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 4 U.S.C. 1015e) is repealed.

5 **SEC. 4. INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (17) of section 487(a)
 7 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a))
 8 is amended to read as follows:

9 “(17) The institution or the assigned agent of
 10 the institution will collect and submit data to the
 11 Commissioner for Education Statistics in accordance
 12 with section 132(l), the nonstudent related surveys
 13 within the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data
 14 System (IPEDS), or any other Federal institution of
 15 higher education data collection effort (as designated
 16 by the Secretary), in a timely manner and to the
 17 satisfaction of the Secretary.”.

18 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
 19 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 4 years
 20 after the date of enactment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 5. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.**

22 The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner
 23 for Education Statistics shall take such steps as are nec-
 24 essary to ensure that the development and maintenance
 25 of the postsecondary student data system required under
 26 section 132(l) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as

1 added by section 2 of this Act, occurs in a manner that
 2 reduces the reporting burden for entities that reported
 3 into the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System
 4 (IPEDS).

5 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

6 *This Act may be cited as the “College Transparency*
 7 *Act”.*

8 **SEC. 2. POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA SYSTEM.**

9 *Section 132 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*
 10 *U.S.C. 1015a) is amended—*

11 *(1) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection*
 12 *(m); and*

13 *(2) by inserting after subsection (k) the fol-*
 14 *lowing:*

15 *“(l) POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA SYSTEM.—*

16 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—*

17 *“(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM.—Not*
 18 *later than 5 years after the date of enactment of*
 19 *the College Transparency Act, the Commissioner*
 20 *of the National Center for Education Statistics*
 21 *(referred to in this subsection as the ‘Commis-*
 22 *sioner’) shall develop and maintain a secure and*
 23 *privacy-protected postsecondary student-level*
 24 *data system in order to—*

1 “(i) accurately evaluate student enroll-
 2 ment patterns, progression, completion, and
 3 postcollegiate outcomes, and higher edu-
 4 cation costs and financial aid;

5 “(ii) assist with transparency, institu-
 6 tional improvement, and analysis of Fed-
 7 eral aid programs;

8 “(iii) provide accurate, complete, and
 9 customizable information for students and
 10 families making decisions about postsec-
 11 ondary education; and

12 “(iv) reduce the reporting burden on
 13 institutions of higher education, in accord-
 14 ance with section 5 of the College Trans-
 15 parency Act.

16 “(B) AVOIDING DUPLICATED REPORTING.—
 17 Notwithstanding any other provision of this sec-
 18 tion, to the extent that another provision of this
 19 section requires the same reporting or collection
 20 of data that is required under this subsection, an
 21 institution of higher education, or the Secretary
 22 or Commissioner, shall use the reporting or data
 23 required for the postsecondary student data sys-
 24 tem under this subsection to satisfy both require-
 25 ments.

1 “(C) *DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.*—*In devel-*
 2 *oping the postsecondary student data system de-*
 3 *scribed in this subsection, the Commissioner*
 4 *shall—*

5 “(i) *focus on the needs of—*

6 “(I) *users of the data system; and*

7 “(II) *entities, including institu-*
 8 *tions of higher education, reporting to*
 9 *the data system;*

10 “(ii) *take into consideration, to the ex-*
 11 *tent practicable—*

12 “(I) *the guidelines outlined in the*
 13 *U.S. Web Design Standards main-*
 14 *tained by the General Services Admin-*
 15 *istration and the Digital Services*
 16 *Playbook and TechFAR Handbook for*
 17 *Procuring Digital Services Using Agile*
 18 *Processes of the U.S. Digital Service;*
 19 *and*

20 “(II) *the relevant successor docu-*
 21 *ments or recommendations of such*
 22 *guidelines;*

23 “(iii) *use modern, relevant privacy-*
 24 *and security-enhancing technology, and en-*
 25 *hance and update the data system as nec-*

1 *essary to carry out the purpose of this sub-*
2 *section;*

3 *“(iv) ensure data privacy and security*
4 *is consistent with any relevant Federal law*
5 *relating to privacy or data security, includ-*
6 *ing—*

7 *“(I) the requirements of sub-*
8 *chapter II of chapter 35 of title 44,*
9 *United States Code, specifying security*
10 *categorization under the Federal Infor-*
11 *mation Processing Standards or any*
12 *relevant successor of such standards;*

13 *“(II) security requirements that*
14 *are consistent with the Federal agency*
15 *responsibilities in section 3554 of title*
16 *44, United States Code, or any rel-*
17 *evant successor of such responsibilities;*
18 *and*

19 *“(III) security requirements,*
20 *guidelines, and controls consistent with*
21 *cybersecurity standards and best prac-*
22 *tices developed by the National Insti-*
23 *tute of Standards and Technology, in-*
24 *cluding frameworks, consistent with*
25 *section 2(c) of the National Institute of*

1 *Standards and Technology Act (15*
 2 *U.S.C. 272(c)), or any relevant suc-*
 3 *cessor of such frameworks;*

4 “(v) follow *Federal data minimization*
 5 *practices to ensure only the minimum*
 6 *amount of data is collected to meet the sys-*
 7 *tem’s goals, in accordance with Federal*
 8 *data minimization standards and guide-*
 9 *lines developed by the National Institute of*
 10 *Standards and Technology; and*

11 “(vi) provide notice to students out-

12 *lining the data included in the system and*

13 *how the data are used.*

14 “(2) *DATA ELEMENTS.—*

15 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years*

16 *after the date of enactment of the College Trans-*

17 *parency Act, the Commissioner, in consultation*

18 *with the Postsecondary Student Data System*

19 *Advisory Committee established under subpara-*

20 *graph (B), shall determine—*

21 “(i) *the data elements to be included in*

22 *the postsecondary student data system, in*

23 *accordance with subparagraphs (C) and*

24 *(D); and*

1 “(ii) *how to include the data elements*
 2 *required under subparagraph (C), and any*
 3 *additional data elements selected under sub-*
 4 *paragraph (D), in the postsecondary stu-*
 5 *dent data system.*

6 “(B) *POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA SYS-*
 7 *TEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—*

8 “(i) *ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than*
 9 *2 years after the date of enactment of the*
 10 *College Transparency Act, the Commis-*
 11 *sioner shall establish a Postsecondary Stu-*
 12 *dent Data System Advisory Committee (re-*
 13 *ferred to in this subsection as the ‘Advisory*
 14 *Committee’), whose members shall include—*

15 “(I) *the Chief Privacy Officer of*
 16 *the Department or an official of the*
 17 *Department delegated the duties of*
 18 *overseeing data privacy at the Depart-*
 19 *ment;*

20 “(II) *the Chief Security Officer of*
 21 *the Department or an official of the*
 22 *Department delegated the duties of*
 23 *overseeing data security at the Depart-*
 24 *ment;*

1 “(III) representatives of diverse
2 institutions of higher education, which
3 shall include equal representation be-
4 tween 2-year and 4-year institutions of
5 higher education, and from public,
6 nonprofit, and proprietary institutions
7 of higher education, including minor-
8 ity-serving institutions;

9 “(IV) representatives from State
10 higher education agencies, entities,
11 bodies, or boards;

12 “(V) representatives of postsec-
13 ondary students;

14 “(VI) representatives from rel-
15 evant Federal agencies;

16 “(VII) individuals with expertise
17 in data privacy and security; and

18 “(VIII) other stakeholders (includ-
19 ing individuals with consumer protec-
20 tion and postsecondary education re-
21 search).

22 “(ii) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The Commis-
23 sioner shall ensure that the Advisory Com-
24 mittee—

1 “(I) adheres to all requirements
2 under chapter 10 of title 5, United
3 States Code (commonly known as the
4 ‘Federal Advisory Committee Act’);

5 “(II) establishes operating and
6 meeting procedures and guidelines nec-
7 essary to execute its advisory duties;
8 and

9 “(III) is provided with appro-
10 priate staffing and resources to execute
11 its advisory duties.

12 “(C) *REQUIRED DATA ELEMENTS.*—The
13 data elements in the postsecondary student data
14 system shall include, at a minimum, the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(i) Student-level data elements nec-
17 essary to calculate the information within
18 the surveys designated by the Commissioner
19 as ‘student-related surveys’ in the Inte-
20 grated Postsecondary Education Data Sys-
21 tem (IPEDS), as such surveys are in effect
22 on the day before the date of enactment of
23 the College Transparency Act, except that in
24 the case that collection of such elements
25 would conflict with subparagraph (F), such

elements in conflict with subparagraph (F) shall be included in the aggregate instead of at the student level.

“(ii) Student-level data elements necessary to allow for reporting student enrollment, persistence, retention, transfer, and completion measures for all credential levels separately (including eligible workforce programs under section 481(b)(3), certificate, associate, baccalaureate, and advanced degree levels), within and across institutions of higher education (including across all categories of institution level, control, and predominant degree awarded). The data elements shall allow for reporting about all such data disaggregated by the following categories:

“(I) Enrollment status as a first-time student, recent transfer student, or other non-first-time student.

“(II) Attendance intensity, whether full-time or part-time.

“(III) Credential-seeking status, by credential level.

1 “(IV) *Race or ethnicity, in a*
2 *manner that captures all the racial*
3 *groups specified in the most recent*
4 *American Community Survey of the*
5 *Bureau of the Census.*

6 “(V) *Age intervals.*

7 “(VI) *Gender.*

8 “(VII) *Program of study (as ap-*
9 *plicable).*

10 “(VIII) *Military or veteran ben-*
11 *efit status (as determined based on re-*
12 *ceipt of veterans’ education benefits, as*
13 *defined in section 480(c)).*

14 “(IX) *Status as a distance edu-*
15 *cation student, whether exclusively or*
16 *partially enrolled in distance edu-*
17 *cation.*

18 “(X) *Federal Pell Grant recipient*
19 *status under section 401 (including*
20 *status as a recipient of a Workforce*
21 *Pell Grant under section 401(k)) and*
22 *Federal loan recipient status under*
23 *title IV, provided that the collection of*
24 *such information complies with para-*
25 *graph (1)(B).*

1 “(D) *OTHER DATA ELEMENTS.*—

2 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Commissioner*
 3 *may, after consultation with the Advisory*
 4 *Committee and provision of a public com-*
 5 *ment period, include additional data ele-*
 6 *ments in the postsecondary student data*
 7 *system, such as those described in clause*
 8 *(ii), if those data elements—*

9 “(I) *are necessary to ensure that*
 10 *the postsecondary data system fulfills*
 11 *the purposes described in paragraph*
 12 *(1)(A); and*

13 “(II) *are consistent with data*
 14 *minimization principles, including the*
 15 *collection of only those additional ele-*
 16 *ments that are necessary to ensure such*
 17 *purposes.*

18 “(ii) *DATA ELEMENTS.*—*The data ele-*
 19 *ments described in clause (i) may include—*

20 “(I) *status as a first generation*
 21 *college student, as defined in section*
 22 *402A(h);*

23 “(II) *economic status;*

1 “(III) participation in postsec-
 2 ondary remedial coursework or gate-
 3 way course completion; or

4 “(IV) other data elements that are
 5 necessary in accordance with clause
 6 (i).

7 “(E) REEVALUATION.—Not less than once
 8 every 3 years after the implementation of the
 9 postsecondary student data system described in
 10 this subsection, the Commissioner, in consulta-
 11 tion with the Advisory Committee described in
 12 subparagraph (B), shall review the data elements
 13 included in the postsecondary student data sys-
 14 tem and may revise the data elements to be in-
 15 cluded in such system.

16 “(F) PROHIBITIONS.—The Commissioner
 17 shall not include individual health data (includ-
 18 ing data relating to physical health or mental
 19 health), student discipline records or data, ele-
 20 mentary and secondary education data, an exact
 21 address, citizenship status, migrant status, or
 22 national origin status for students or their fami-
 23 lies, course grades, postsecondary entrance exam-
 24 ination results, political affiliation, or religion

1 *in the postsecondary student data system under*
 2 *this subsection.*

3 “(3) *PERIODIC MATCHING WITH OTHER FEDERAL*
 4 *DATA SYSTEMS.—*

5 “(A) *DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS.—*

6 “(i) *IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner*
 7 *shall ensure secure and privacy-protected*
 8 *periodic data matches by entering into data*
 9 *sharing agreements with each of the fol-*
 10 *lowing Federal agencies and offices:*

11 “(I) *The Secretary of the Treas-*
 12 *ury and the Commissioner of the Inter-*
 13 *nal Revenue Service, in order to cal-*
 14 *culate aggregate program- and institu-*
 15 *tion-level earnings of postsecondary*
 16 *students.*

17 “(II) *The Secretary of Defense, in*
 18 *order to assess the use of postsecondary*
 19 *educational benefits and the outcomes*
 20 *of servicemembers.*

21 “(III) *The Secretary of Veterans*
 22 *Affairs, in order to assess the use of*
 23 *postsecondary educational benefits and*
 24 *outcomes of veterans.*

1 “(IV) *The Director of the Bureau*
2 *of the Census, in order to assess the*
3 *earnings outcomes of former postsec-*
4 *ondary education students.*

5 “(V) *The Chief Operating Officer*
6 *of the Office of Federal Student Aid, in*
7 *order to analyze the use of postsec-*
8 *ondary educational benefits provided*
9 *under this Act.*

10 “(VI) *The Commissioner of the*
11 *Social Security Administration, in*
12 *order to evaluate labor market out-*
13 *comes of former postsecondary edu-*
14 *cation students.*

15 “(VII) *The Commissioner of the*
16 *Bureau of Labor Statistics, in order to*
17 *assess the wages of former postsec-*
18 *ondary education students.*

19 “(ii) *ENSURING SECURE DATA*
20 *MATCHES.—The heads of Federal agencies*
21 *and offices described under clause (i) shall*
22 *enter into data sharing agreements with the*
23 *Commissioner to ensure secure and privacy-*
24 *protected periodic data matches as described*
25 *in this paragraph.*

1 “(B) *CATEGORIES OF DATA.*—*The Commis-*
 2 *sioner shall, at a minimum, seek to ensure that*
 3 *the secure and privacy-protected periodic data*
 4 *matches described in subparagraph (A) permit*
 5 *consistent reporting of the following categories of*
 6 *data for all postsecondary students:*

7 “(i) *Enrollment, retention, transfer,*
 8 *and completion outcomes for all postsec-*
 9 *ondary students.*

10 “(ii) *Financial indicators for postsec-*
 11 *ondary students receiving Federal grants*
 12 *and loans, including grant and loan aid by*
 13 *source, cumulative student debt, loan repay-*
 14 *ment status, and repayment plan.*

15 “(iii) *Post-completion outcomes for all*
 16 *postsecondary students, including earnings,*
 17 *employment, and further education, by pro-*
 18 *gram of study and credential level and as*
 19 *measured—*

20 “(I) *immediately after leaving*
 21 *postsecondary education; and*

22 “(II) *at time intervals appro-*
 23 *priate to the credential sought and*
 24 *earned.*

1 “(C) *PERIODIC DATA MATCH STREAMLINING*
 2 *AND CONFIDENTIALITY.*—

3 “(i) *STREAMLINING.*—*In carrying out*
 4 *the secure and privacy-protected periodic*
 5 *data matches under this paragraph, the*
 6 *Commissioner shall—*

7 “(I) *ensure that such matches are*
 8 *not continuous, but occur only periodi-*
 9 *cally at appropriate intervals, as de-*
 10 *termined by the Commissioner to meet*
 11 *the goals of subparagraph (A); and*

12 “(II) *seek to—*

13 “(aa) *streamline the data*
 14 *collection and reporting require-*
 15 *ments for institutions of higher*
 16 *education;*

17 “(bb) *minimize duplicative*
 18 *reporting across or within Federal*
 19 *agencies or departments, includ-*
 20 *ing reporting requirements appli-*
 21 *cable to institutions of higher edu-*
 22 *cation under the Workforce Inno-*
 23 *vation and Opportunity Act (29*
 24 *U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) and the Carl*

1 *D. Perkins Career and Technical*
2 *Education Act of 2006;*

3 “(cc) protect student privacy;
4 and

5 “(dd) streamline the applica-
6 tion process for student loan ben-
7 efit programs available to bor-
8 rowers based on data available
9 from different Federal data sys-
10 tems.

11 “(ii) REVIEW.—Not less often than
12 once every 3 years after the establishment of
13 the postsecondary student data system
14 under this subsection, the Commissioner, in
15 consultation with the Advisory Committee,
16 shall review methods for streamlining data
17 collection from institutions of higher edu-
18 cation and minimizing duplicative report-
19 ing within the Department and across Fed-
20 eral agencies that provide data for the post-
21 secondary student data system.

22 “(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Com-
23 missioner shall ensure that any periodic
24 matching or sharing of data through peri-

1 *odic data system matches established in ac-*
 2 *cordance with this paragraph—*

3 *“(I) complies with the security*
 4 *and privacy protections described in*
 5 *paragraph (1)(C)(iv) and other Fed-*
 6 *eral data protection protocols;*

7 *“(II) follows industry best prac-*
 8 *tices commensurate with the sensitivity*
 9 *of specific data elements or metrics;*

10 *“(III) does not result in the cre-*
 11 *ation of a single standing, linked Fed-*
 12 *eral database at the Department that*
 13 *maintains the information reported*
 14 *across other Federal agencies; and*

15 *“(IV) discloses to postsecondary*
 16 *students what data are included in the*
 17 *data system and periodically matched*
 18 *and how the data are used.*

19 *“(iv) CORRECTION.—The Commis-*
 20 *sioner, in consultation with the Advisory*
 21 *Committee and in a manner that protects*
 22 *each student’s personally identifiable infor-*
 23 *mation, shall—*

1 “(I) provide dedicated and ade-
 2 quate staffing to field and respond to
 3 inquiries from students who—

4 “(aa) request access to their
 5 personal information for inspec-
 6 tion; and

7 “(bb) request corrections to
 8 inaccuracies; and

9 “(II) respond in writing to every
 10 request for a correction from a student.

11 “(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner shall
 13 make the summary aggregate information de-
 14 scribed in subparagraph (C), at a minimum,
 15 publicly available through a user-friendly con-
 16 sumer information website and analytic tool
 17 that—

18 “(i) provides appropriate mechanisms
 19 for users to customize and filter information
 20 by institutional and student characteristics;

21 “(ii) allows users to build summary
 22 aggregate reports of information, including
 23 reports that allow comparisons across mul-
 24 tiple institutions and programs, subject to
 25 subparagraph (B);

1 “(iii) uses appropriate statistical dis-
 2 closure limitation techniques necessary to
 3 ensure that the data released to the public
 4 cannot be used to identify specific individ-
 5 uals; and

6 “(iv) provides users with appropriate
 7 contextual factors to make comparisons,
 8 which may include national median figures
 9 of the summary aggregate information de-
 10 scribed in subparagraph (C).

11 “(B) NO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFOR-
 12 MATION AVAILABLE.—The summary aggregate
 13 information described in this paragraph shall
 14 not include personally identifiable information.

15 “(C) SUMMARY AGGREGATE INFORMATION
 16 AVAILABLE.—The summary aggregate informa-
 17 tion described in this paragraph shall, at a min-
 18 imum, include each of the following for each in-
 19 stitution of higher education:

20 “(i) Measures of student access, includ-
 21 ing—

22 “(I) admissions selectivity and
 23 yield; and

1 “(II) enrollment, disaggregated by
2 each category described in paragraph
3 (2)(C)(ii).

4 “(ii) Measures of student progression,
5 including retention rates and persistence
6 rates, disaggregated by each category de-
7 scribed in paragraph (2)(C)(ii).

8 “(iii) Measures of student completion,
9 including—

10 “(I) transfer rates and completion
11 rates, disaggregated by each category
12 described in paragraph (2)(C)(ii); and

13 “(II) number of completions,
14 disaggregated by each category de-
15 scribed in paragraph (2)(C)(ii).

16 “(iv) Measures of student costs, includ-
17 ing—

18 “(I) tuition, required fees, total
19 cost of attendance, and net price after
20 total grant aid, disaggregated by in-
21 State tuition or in-district tuition sta-
22 tus (if applicable), program of study
23 (if applicable), and credential level;
24 and

1 “(II) *typical grant amounts and*
 2 *loan amounts received by students re-*
 3 *ported separately from Federal, State,*
 4 *local, and institutional sources, and*
 5 *cumulative debt, disaggregated by each*
 6 *category described in paragraph*
 7 *(2)(C)(ii) and completion status.*

8 “(v) *Measures of postcollegiate student*
 9 *outcomes, including employment rates,*
 10 *mean and median earnings, loan repay-*
 11 *ment and default rates, and further edu-*
 12 *cation rates. These measures shall—*

13 “(I) *be disaggregated by each cat-*
 14 *egory described in paragraph (2)(C)(ii)*
 15 *and completion status; and*

16 “(II) *be measured immediately*
 17 *after leaving postsecondary education*
 18 *and at time intervals appropriate to*
 19 *the credential sought or earned.*

20 “(D) *DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA.—In devel-*
 21 *oping the method and format of making the in-*
 22 *formation described in this paragraph publicly*
 23 *available, the Commissioner shall—*

24 “(i) *focus on the needs of the users of*
 25 *the information, which will include stu-*

1 *dents, families of students, potential stu-*
2 *dents, researchers, and other consumers of*
3 *education data;*

4 “(ii) take into consideration, to the ex-
5 *tent practicable, the guidelines described in*
6 *paragraph (1)(C)(ii)(I), and relevant suc-*
7 *cessor documents or recommendations of*
8 *such guidelines;*

9 “(iii) use modern, relevant technology
10 *and enhance and update the postsecondary*
11 *student data system with information, as*
12 *necessary to carry out the purpose of this*
13 *paragraph;*

14 “(iv) ensure data privacy and security
15 *in accordance with standards and guide-*
16 *lines developed by the National Institute of*
17 *Standards and Technology, and in accord-*
18 *ance with any other Federal law relating to*
19 *privacy or security, including complying*
20 *with the requirements of subchapter II of*
21 *chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code,*
22 *specifying security categorization under the*
23 *Federal Information Processing Standards,*
24 *and security requirements, and setting of*
25 *National Institute of Standards and Tech-*

nology security baseline controls at the appropriate level;

“(v) conduct biannual consumer testing to determine how to make the information as meaningful to users as possible, and conduct consumer testing with prospective first generation college students, representatives of students (including low-income students, English learners, first generation college students, adult students, veterans, servicemembers, and prospective students), students’ families (including low-income families, families with English learners, families with first generation college students, and families with prospective students), institutions of higher education, secondary school and postsecondary counselors, and nonprofit consumer groups; and

“(vi) ensure the information is available in formats accessible to individuals with disabilities and compliant with the most recent Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, or successor guidelines.

“(5) PERMISSIBLE DISCLOSURES OF DATA.—

“(A) DATA REPORTS AND QUERIES.—

1 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—

2 “(I) *STUDENT-LEVEL DATA.*—Not
3 later than 5 years after the date of en-
4 actment of the College Transparency
5 Act, the Commissioner shall develop
6 and implement a secure and privacy-
7 protected process for making student-
8 level data, provided only in accordance
9 with subclause (II), from the postsec-
10 ondary student data system available
11 for vetted research and evaluation pur-
12 poses approved by the Commissioner in
13 a manner compatible with practices for
14 disclosing National Center for Edu-
15 cation Statistics restricted-use survey
16 data, as in effect on the day before the
17 date of enactment of the College Trans-
18 parency Act, or by applying other re-
19 search and disclosure restrictions to en-
20 sure data privacy and security. Such
21 process shall be approved by the Na-
22 tional Center for Education Statistics’
23 Disclosure Review Board (or successor
24 body).

1 “(II) *RESTRICTIONS.*—*The stu-*
 2 *dent-level data described in subclause*
 3 *(I)*—

4 “(aa) *shall be non-personally*
 5 *identifiable information with di-*
 6 *rect identifiers removed; and*

7 “(bb) *shall not include—*

8 “(AA) *individual health*
 9 *data (including data relating*
 10 *to physical health or mental*
 11 *health);*

12 “(BB) *student discipline*
 13 *records or data;*

14 “(CC) *elementary or*
 15 *secondary education data;*

16 “(DD) *an exact address;*

17 “(EE) *citizenship sta-*
 18 *tus, migrant status, or na-*
 19 *tional origin status for stu-*
 20 *dents or their families; or*

21 “(FF) *course grades,*
 22 *postsecondary entrance ex-*
 23 *amination results, political*
 24 *affiliation, or religion.*

1 “(i) *PROVIDING DATA REPORTS AND*
2 *QUERIES TO INSTITUTIONS AND STATES.*—

3 “(I) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Commis-*
4 *sioner shall provide feedback reports, at*
5 *least annually, to each institution of*
6 *higher education, each postsecondary*
7 *education system that fully partici-*
8 *pates in the postsecondary student*
9 *data system, and each State higher*
10 *education body as designated by the*
11 *governor.*

12 “(II) *FEEDBACK REPORTS.*—*The*
13 *feedback reports provided under this*
14 *clause shall include program-level and*
15 *institution-level information from the*
16 *postsecondary student data system re-*
17 *garding students who are associated*
18 *with the institution or, for State rep-*
19 *resentatives, the institutions within*
20 *that State, on or before the date of the*
21 *report, on measures including student*
22 *mobility and workforce outcomes, pro-*
23 *vided that the feedback aggregate sum-*
24 *mary reports protect the privacy of in-*
25 *dividuals.*

1 “(III) *DETERMINATION OF CON-*
2 *TENT.—The content of the feedback re-*
3 *ports shall be determined by the Com-*
4 *missioner in consultation with the Ad-*
5 *visory Committee.*

6 “(iii) *PERMITTING STATE DATA QUE-*
7 *RIES.—The Commissioner shall, in con-*
8 *sultation with the Advisory Committee and*
9 *as soon as practicable, create a process*
10 *through which States may submit lists of*
11 *secondary school graduates within the State*
12 *to receive summary aggregate outcomes for*
13 *those students who enrolled at an institu-*
14 *tion of higher education, including postsec-*
15 *ondary enrollment and college completion,*
16 *provided that those data protect the privacy*
17 *of individuals and that the State data sub-*
18 *mitted to the Commissioner are not stored*
19 *in the postsecondary education system.*

20 “(iv) *REGULATIONS.—The Commis-*
21 *sioner shall promulgate regulations to en-*
22 *sure fair, secure and privacy-protected, and*
23 *equitable access to data reports and queries*
24 *under this paragraph.*

1 “(B) *DISCLOSURE LIMITATIONS.*—*In car-*
 2 *rying out the public reporting and disclosure re-*
 3 *quirements of this subsection, the Commissioner*
 4 *shall use appropriate statistical disclosure limi-*
 5 *tation techniques necessary to ensure that the*
 6 *data released to the public cannot include per-*
 7 *sonally identifiable information or be used to*
 8 *identify specific individuals.*

9 “(C) *SALE OF DATA PROHIBITED.*—*Data*
 10 *collected under this subsection, including the*
 11 *public-use data set and data comprising the*
 12 *summary aggregate information available under*
 13 *paragraph (4), shall not be sold to any third*
 14 *party by the Commissioner, including any insti-*
 15 *tution of higher education or any other entity.*

16 “(D) *LIMITATION ON USE BY OTHER FED-*
 17 *ERAL AGENCIES.*—

18 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Commissioner*
 19 *shall not allow any other Federal agency to*
 20 *use data collected under this subsection for*
 21 *any purpose except—*

22 “(I) *for vetted research and eval-*
 23 *uation conducted by the other Federal*
 24 *agency, as described in subparagraph*
 25 *(A)(i); or*

1 “(II) for a purpose explicitly au-
2 thorized by this Act.

3 “(ii) *PROHIBITION ON LIMITATION OF*
4 *SERVICES.—The Secretary, or the head of*
5 *any other Federal agency, shall not use data*
6 *collected under this subsection to limit serv-*
7 *ices to students.*

8 “(E) *LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Personally*
9 *identifiable information collected under this sub-*
10 *section shall not be used for any Federal, State,*
11 *or local law enforcement activity or any other*
12 *activity that would result in adverse action*
13 *against any student or a student’s family, in-*
14 *cluding debt collection activity or enforcement of*
15 *immigration laws.*

16 “(F) *LIMITATION OF USE FOR FEDERAL*
17 *RANKINGS OR SUMMATIVE RATING SYSTEM.—The*
18 *comprehensive data collection and analysis nec-*
19 *essary for the postsecondary student data system*
20 *under this subsection shall not be used by the*
21 *Secretary or any Federal entity to establish any*
22 *Federal ranking system of institutions of higher*
23 *education or a system that results in a*
24 *summative Federal rating of institutions of high-*
25 *er education.*

1 “(G) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*Nothing in*
 2 *this paragraph shall be construed to prevent the*
 3 *use of individual categories of aggregate infor-*
 4 *mation to be used for accountability purposes.*

5 “(H) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING*
 6 *COMMERCIAL USE OF DATA.*—*Nothing in this*
 7 *paragraph shall be construed to prohibit third-*
 8 *party entities from using publicly available in-*
 9 *formation in this data system for commercial*
 10 *use.*

11 “(6) *SUBMISSION OF DATA.*—

12 “(A) *REQUIRED SUBMISSION.*—*Each insti-*
 13 *tution of higher education participating in a*
 14 *program under title IV, or the assigned agent of*
 15 *such institution, shall, for each eligible program,*
 16 *in accordance with section 487(a)(17), collect,*
 17 *and submit to the Commissioner, the data re-*
 18 *quested by the Commissioner to carry out this*
 19 *subsection.*

20 “(B) *VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION.*—*Any insti-*
 21 *tution of higher education not participating in*
 22 *a program under title IV may voluntarily par-*
 23 *ticipate in the postsecondary student data system*
 24 *under this subsection by collecting and submit-*

1 *ting data to the Commissioner, as the Commis-*
 2 *sioner may request to carry out this subsection.*

3 *“(C) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMA-*
 4 *TION.—In accordance with paragraph (2)(C)(i),*
 5 *if the submission of an element of student-level*
 6 *data is prohibited under paragraph (2)(F) (or*
 7 *otherwise prohibited by law), the institution of*
 8 *higher education shall submit that data to the*
 9 *Commissioner in the aggregate.*

10 *“(7) UNLAWFUL WILLFUL DISCLOSURE.—*

11 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for*
 12 *any person who obtains or has access to person-*
 13 *ally identifiable information in connection with*
 14 *the postsecondary student data system described*
 15 *in this subsection to willfully disclose to any per-*
 16 *son (except as authorized in this Act or by any*
 17 *Federal law) such personally identifiable infor-*
 18 *mation.*

19 *“(B) PENALTY.—Any person who violates*
 20 *subparagraph (A) shall be subject to a penalty*
 21 *described under section 3572(f) of title 44,*
 22 *United States Code, and section 183(d)(6) of the*
 23 *Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20*
 24 *U.S.C. 9573(d)(6)).*

1 “(C) *EMPLOYEE OR OFFICER OF THE*
2 *UNITED STATES.—If a violation of subparagraph*
3 *(A) is committed by any officer or employee of*
4 *the United States, the officer or employee shall be*
5 *dismissed from office or discharged from employ-*
6 *ment upon conviction for the violation.*

7 “(8) *DATA SECURITY.—The Commissioner shall*
8 *produce and update as needed guidance and regula-*
9 *tions relating to privacy, security, and access which*
10 *shall govern the use and disclosure of data collected*
11 *in connection with the activities authorized in this*
12 *subsection. The guidance and regulations developed*
13 *and reviewed shall protect data from unauthorized ac-*
14 *cess, use, and disclosure, and shall include—*

15 “(A) *an audit capability, including manda-*
16 *tory and regularly conducted audits;*

17 “(B) *access controls;*

18 “(C) *requirements to ensure sufficient data*
19 *security, quality, validity, and reliability;*

20 “(D) *confidentiality protection in accord-*
21 *ance with the applicable provisions of subchapter*
22 *III of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code;*

23 “(E) *appropriate and applicable privacy*
24 *and security protection, including data retention*
25 *and destruction protocols and data minimiza-*

tion, in accordance with the most recent Federal standards developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

“(F) protocols for managing a breach, including breach notifications, in accordance with the standards of National Center for Education Statistics.

“(9) DATA COLLECTION.—The Commissioner shall ensure that data collection, maintenance, and use under this subsection complies with section 552a of title 5, United States Code.

“(10) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 102.

“(B) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institution of higher education listed in section 371(a).

“(C) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The term ‘personally identifiable information’ means personally identifiable information within the meaning of section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON STUDENT DATA SYS-**
 2 **TEM.**

3 *Section 134 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*
 4 *U.S.C. 1015c) is repealed.*

5 **SEC. 4. INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

6 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (17) of section 487(a)*
 7 *of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a))*
 8 *is amended to read as follows:*

9 *“(17) The institution or the assigned agent of the*
 10 *institution will collect and submit data to the Com-*
 11 *missioner for Education Statistics in accordance with*
 12 *section 132(l), the nonstudent related surveys within*
 13 *the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System*
 14 *(IPEDS), or any other Federal institution of higher*
 15 *education data collection effort (as designated by the*
 16 *Secretary), in a timely manner and to the satisfac-*
 17 *tion of the Secretary.”.*

18 *(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by sub-*
 19 *section (a) shall take effect on the date that is 5 years after*
 20 *the date of enactment of this Act.*

21 **SEC. 5. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.**

22 *The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner for*
 23 *Education Statistics shall take such steps as are necessary*
 24 *to ensure that the development and maintenance of the post-*
 25 *secondary student data system required under section 132(l)*
 26 *of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as added by section*

1 *2 of this Act, occurs in a manner that reduces the reporting*
 2 *burden for entities that reported into the Integrated Postsec-*
 3 *ondary Education Data System (IPEDS).*

4 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS.**

5 *The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner for*
 6 *Education Statistics shall—*

7 *(1) provide dedicated and adequate staffing at*
 8 *the Department of Education to implement the re-*
 9 *quirements of this Act and the amendments made by*
 10 *this Act; and*

11 *(2) report to the Committee on Health, Edu-*
 12 *cation, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on*
 13 *Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on*
 14 *Education and Workforce and the Committee on Ap-*
 15 *propriations of the House of Representatives, on a*
 16 *quarterly basis, on the progress of implementing the*
 17 *requirements of this Act and the amendments made*
 18 *by this Act, which shall include—*

19 *(A) information on the staffing described in*
 20 *paragraph (1), the development of privacy pro-*
 21 *tection procedures as required by this Act and*
 22 *the amendments made by this Act, the establish-*
 23 *ment of the Postsecondary Student Data System*
 24 *Advisory Committee, the development of publicly*
 25 *available information under section 132(l)(4) of*

1 *the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*
2 *1015a(l)(4) (as added by this Act)), and commu-*
3 *nications to institutions of higher education (as*
4 *defined in section 102 of the Higher Education*
5 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) regarding data*
6 *collection; and*

7 *(B) other such information relating to the*
8 *implementation of requirements under this Act*
9 *and the amendments made by this Act.*

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A BILL

To establish a postsecondary student data system.

AUGUST 4, 2026

Reported with an amendment