

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4897

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include in the calculation of cost of attendance an allowance for costs for prior learning assessments.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2026

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

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include in the calculation of cost of attendance an allowance for costs for prior learning assessments.

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 “Credit for Prior Learn-
5 ing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COST OF ATTENDANCE TO INCLUDE AN ALLOW-**
 2 **ANCE FOR COSTS FOR PRIOR LEARNING AS-**
 3 **SESSMENTS.**

4 Section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 5 U.S.C. 1087ll), as amended by section 702 of the FAFSA
 6 Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law
 7 116–260), is amended in subsection (a)—

8 (1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” after
 9 the semicolon;

10 (2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period
 11 and inserting “; and”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(15) an allowance of not more than \$2,000
 14 per award year (adjusted for inflation in years fol-
 15 lowing the 2025–2026 award year) for reasonable
 16 costs, including test fees, associated with the assess-
 17 ment of prior learning as part of one or more eligible
 18 credit for prior learning assessments.”.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE CREDIT FOR PRIOR**
 20 **LEARNING ASSESSMENT.**

21 Section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 22 U.S.C. 1088) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(g) **ELIGIBLE CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING AS-**
 25 **SESSMENT.**—For purposes of this title, the term ‘eligible
 26 credit for prior learning assessment’ includes an evalua-

1 tion of knowledge or skills learned outside of an institution
 2 of higher education—

3 “(1) that assesses for evidence of learning, not
 4 for experience or time spent;

5 “(2) that has been determined by the institu-
 6 tion to be based on generally accepted criteria by
 7 relevant subject matter experts; and

8 “(3) for which successful assessment will result
 9 in the institution awarding academic credit (without
 10 the student having to enroll in additional coursework
 11 to achieve such academic credit) to meet all or part
 12 of the program requirements toward completion.”.

13 **SEC. 4. RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCY OR ASSO-**
 14 **CIATION.**

15 Section 496(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 16 (20 U.S.C. 1099b(c)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” after
 18 the semicolon;

19 (2) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking the period
 20 and inserting “; and”; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(10) confirms, as part of the agency’s or asso-
 23 ciation’s review for accreditation or reaccreditation,
 24 that the institution has sufficient standards for as-
 25 sessment of prior learning—

1 “(A) that assess for skills, competencies,
2 and knowledge at levels generally accepted by
3 subject matter experts; and

4 “(B) that are publicly disclosed.”.

5 **SEC. 5. TRANSPARENCY IN COLLEGE TUITION FOR CON-**
6 **SUMERS.**

7 Section 132(i)(1) of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a(i)(1)) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following:

10 “(AA) The number of students receiving
11 credit for prior learning, disaggregated by race,
12 income, and status as a Federal Pell Grant re-
13 cipient.

14 “(BB) The average number of credits
15 awarded per student seeking credit for prior
16 learning, disaggregated by race, income, and
17 status as a Federal Pell Grant recipient.”.

18 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 Unless otherwise specified, this Act, and the amend-
20 ments made by this Act, shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

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