

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1970

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the establishment of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 1997

Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. DELLUMS, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MILENDER-McDONALD, Mr. FORD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FROST, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. DIXON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. WATERS, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. STOKES, Mr. CLAY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. STARK, and Mr. FATTAH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the establishment of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. THURGOOD MARSHALL LEGAL EDUCATION OP-**
2 **PORTUNITY PROGRAM.**

3 Chapter 1 of subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the
4 Higher Education Act of 1965 is amended by inserting
5 after section 402H (20 U.S.C. 1070a-18) the following
6 new section:

7 **SEC. 402I. LEGAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall
9 carry out a program to be known as the ‘Thurgood Mar-
10 shall Legal Educational Opportunity Program’ designed
11 to provide low-income, minority, and disadvantaged college
12 students with the information, preparation, and financial
13 assistance to gain access to and complete law school study.

14 “(b) CONTRACT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is au-
15 thorized to enter into a contract with, or make a grant
16 to, the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, for a pe-
17 riod of no less than 5 years—

18 “(1) to identify individuals from low-income,
19 minority, and disadvantaged backgrounds;

20 “(2) to prepare such individuals for study at ac-
21 credited law schools;

22 “(3) to assist students to select the appropriate
23 law school, make application for entry into law
24 school, and receive financial assistance for such
25 study;

1 “(4) to provide support services to first-year
2 law students to improve retention and success in law
3 school studies; and

4 “(5) to motivate and prepare such students in
5 law school studies and practice in low-income com-
6 munities.

7 “(c) SERVICES PROVIDED.—In carrying out the pur-
8 poses described in subsection (b), the contract or grant
9 shall provide for the delivery of services through prelaw
10 information resource centers, summer institutes, and mid-
11 year seminars conducted under this section. Such services
12 may include—

13 “(1) information and counseling regarding—

14 “(A) accredited law school academic pro-
15 grams, especially tuition, fees, and admission
16 requirements;

17 “(B) course work offered and required for
18 graduation;

19 “(C) faculty specialties and areas of legal
20 emphasis;

21 “(D) undergraduate preparatory courses
22 and curriculum selection;

23 “(2) tutoring and academic counseling, includ-
24 ing assistance in preparing for bar examinations;

1 “(3) prelaw mentoring programs, involving law
2 school faculty, members of State and local bar asso-
3 ciations, and retired and sitting judges, justices, and
4 magistrates;

5 “(4) assistance in identifying preparatory
6 courses and material for the law school aptitude or
7 admissions tests;

8 “(5) summer institutes for Thurgood Marshall
9 Fellows which expose them to a rigorous curriculum
10 that emphasizes abstract thinking, legal analysis, re-
11 search, writing, and examination techniques; and

12 “(6) midyear seminars and other educational
13 activities designed to reinforce reading, writing, and
14 studying skills of Thurgood Marshall Fellows during
15 the first year of law school study.

16 “(d) SUBGRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS.—For the
17 purposes of planning, developing, or delivering one or
18 more of the services described in subsection (c), the Coun-
19 cil on Legal Education Opportunity shall make subgrants
20 to, and subcontracts with, institutions of higher education,
21 law schools, public and private agencies and organizations,
22 and combinations of such institutions, schools, agencies,
23 and organizations.

24 “(e) STIPENDS.—The Secretary shall annually estab-
25 lish the maximum stipend to be paid (including allowances

1 for participant travel and for their dependents) to
2 Thurgood Marshall Fellows for the period of prelaw prepa-
3 ration in summer institutes and midyear seminar prior to
4 and during the period of law school study. A Fellow may
5 be eligible for such a stipend only if the Fellow maintains
6 satisfactory academic progress toward the Juris Doctor or
7 Bachelor of Laws degree, as determined by the respective
8 institutions.

9 “(f) MAXIMUM GRANT LEVEL.—For any year for
10 which an appropriation is made to carry out this chapter,
11 the Secretary shall allocate not more than \$5,000,000 for
12 the purpose of providing the services described in sub-
13 section (c).”.

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