

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2108

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2000

Mr. TORRICELLI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, 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 “Campus Fire Safety  
5 Right to Know Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND**  
7 **MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO CAMPUS**  
8 **BUILDINGS.**

9 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
10 U.S.C. 1092) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

2 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
3 paragraph (N);

4 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
5 subparagraph (O) and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
7 subparagraph:

8 “(P) the fire safety report prepared by the in-  
9 stitution pursuant to subsection (h).”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
11 section:

12 “(h) DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND  
13 MEASURES.—

14 “(1) FIRE SAFETY REPORTS REQUIRED.—Each  
15 eligible institution participating in any program  
16 under this title shall, beginning in 2001, and each  
17 year thereafter, prepare, publish, and distribute,  
18 through appropriate publications or mailings, to all  
19 current students and employees, and to any appli-  
20 cant for enrollment or employment upon request, an  
21 annual fire safety report containing at least the fol-  
22 lowing information with respect to the campus fire  
23 safety practices and standards of that institution:

24 “(A) A statement that identifies each stu-  
25 dent housing facility of the institution, and

1           whether or not each such facility is equipped  
2           with a fire sprinkler system or another equally  
3           protective fire safety system.

4           “(B) Statistics concerning the occurrence  
5           on campus, during the 2 preceding calendar  
6           years for which data are available, of fires and  
7           false fire alarms.

8           “(C) For each such occurrence, a state-  
9           ment of the human injuries or deaths and the  
10          structural damage caused by the occurrence.

11          “(D) Information regarding fire alarms,  
12          smoke alarms, the presence of adequate fire es-  
13          cape planning or protocols, rules on portable  
14          electrical appliances, smoking and open flames  
15          (such as candles), regular mandatory supervised  
16          fire drills, and planned and future improvement  
17          in fire safety.

18          “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
19          this subsection shall be construed to authorize the  
20          Secretary to require particular policies, procedures,  
21          or practices by institutions of higher education with  
22          respect to fire safety.

23          “(3) REPORTS.—Each institution participating  
24          in any program under this title shall make timely re-  
25          ports to the campus community on fires that are re-

1       ported to local fire departments and the incidence of  
2       false fire alarms on campus. Such reports shall be  
3       provided to students and employees in a manner  
4       that is timely and that will aid in the prevention of  
5       similar occurrences.

6           “(4) LOGS.—Each institution participating in  
7       any program under this title shall make, keep, and  
8       maintain a log, written in a form that can be easily  
9       understood, recording all fires reported to local fire  
10      departments, including the nature, date, time, and  
11      general location of each fire, and all false fire  
12      alarms. All entries that are required pursuant to this  
13      paragraph shall, except where disclosure of such in-  
14      formation is prohibited by law, be open to public in-  
15      spection.

16          “(5) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—On an annual  
17      basis, each institution participating in any program  
18      under this title shall submit to the Secretary a copy  
19      of the statistics required to be made available under  
20      paragraph (1)(B). The Secretary shall—

21           “(A) review such statistics;

22           “(B) make copies of the statistics sub-  
23      mitted to the Secretary available to the public;  
24      and

“(C) in coordination with representatives of institutions of higher education, identify exemplary fire safety policies, procedures, and practices and disseminate information concerning those policies, procedures, and practices that have proven effective in the reduction of campus fires.

“(6) DEFINITION OF CAMPUS.—In this subsection the term ‘campus’ has the meaning provided in subsection (f)(6).”.

**SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall prepare and submit to the Congress a report containing—

(1) an analysis of the current status of fire safety systems in college and university facilities, including sprinkler systems;

(2) an analysis of the appropriate fire safety standards to apply to these facilities, which the Secretary shall prepare after consultation with such fire safety experts, representatives of institutions of higher education, and other Federal agencies as the Secretary, in the Secretary’s discretion, considers appropriate;

1           (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all non-  
2       conforming dormitories and other campus buildings  
3       up to current new building codes; and

4           (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-  
5       cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-  
6       ards in all college and university facilities, including  
7       recommendations for methods to fund such cost.

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