

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 773

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

APRIL 25, 2001

Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. CORZINE) 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”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND**  
 2 **MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO CAMPUS**  
 3 **BUILDINGS.**

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

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

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

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

11 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
 12 subparagraph:

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

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 16 section:

17 “(h) DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND  
 18 MEASURES.—

19 “(1) FIRE SAFETY REPORTS REQUIRED.—Each  
 20 eligible institution participating in any program  
 21 under this title shall, beginning in academic year  
 22 2002–2003, and each academic year thereafter, pre-  
 23 pare, publish, and distribute, through appropriate  
 24 publications, including the Internet, or mailings, to  
 25 all current students and employees, and upon re-  
 26 quest to any applicant for enrollment or employ-

1       ment, an annual fire safety report containing at  
2       least the following information with respect to the  
3       campus fire safety practices and standards of that  
4       institution:

5               “(A) A statement that identifies each stu-  
6               dent housing facility of the institution, and  
7               whether each such facility is equipped with a  
8               fire sprinkler system or another equally protec-  
9               tive fire safety system.

10              “(B) Statistics concerning the occurrence  
11              on campus, during the 2 preceding academic  
12              years for which data are available, of fires and  
13              false fire alarms.

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

17              “(D) Information regarding fire alarms,  
18              smoke alarms, the presence of adequate fire es-  
19              cape planning or protocols, rules on portable  
20              electrical appliances, smoking and open flames  
21              (such as candles), regular mandatory supervised  
22              fire drills, and planned and future improvement  
23              in fire safety.

24              “(E) Information about fire safety edu-  
25              cation and training provided to students, fac-

ulty, and staff, including the percentage of students, faculty, and staff who have participated in such education and training.

“(F) Information concerning fire safety at student fraternities and sororities that are recognized by the institution, including—

“(i) information reported to the institution under paragraph (5); and

“(ii) a statement concerning whether and how the institution works with recognized student fraternities and sororities to make buildings and property owned or controlled by such fraternities or sororities more fire safe.

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

“(3) REPORTS.—Each institution participating in any program under this title shall make timely reports to the campus community on fires that are reported to local fire departments and the incidence of false fire alarms on campus. Such reports shall be provided to students and employees in a manner

1 that is timely and that will aid in the prevention of  
2 similar occurrences.

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

13 “(5) FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES.—Each  
14 institution participating in a program under this  
15 title shall request each fraternity and sorority that  
16 is recognized by the institution to collect and report  
17 to the institution the information described in sub-  
18 paragraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1), as ap-  
19 plied to the fraternity or sorority, for each building  
20 and property owned or controlled by the fraternity  
21 or sorority, respectively.

22 “(6) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—On an annual  
23 basis, each institution participating in any program  
24 under this title shall submit to the Secretary a copy

of the statistics required to be made available under paragraph (1)(B). The Secretary shall—

“(A) review such statistics;

“(B) make copies of the statistics submitted to the Secretary available to the public; 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.

“(7) DEFINITION OF CAMPUS.—In this subsection, the term ‘campus’ means—

“(A) any building or property owned or controlled by an institution of higher education within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the institution and used by the institution in direct support of, or in a manner related to, the institution’s educational purposes, including residence halls; and

“(B) property within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the institution that is owned by the institution but controlled

1 by another person, is used by students, and  
 2 supports institutional purposes (such as a food  
 3 or other retail vendor).”.

4 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY SECRETARY OF EDU-**  
 5 **CATION.**

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

9 (1) an analysis of the current status of fire  
 10 safety systems in college and university facilities, in-  
 11 cluding sprinkler systems;

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

19 (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all non-  
 20 conforming dormitories and other campus buildings  
 21 up to current new building codes or life safety codes;  
 22 and

23 (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-  
 24 cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-

- 1 ards in all college and university facilities, including
- 2 recommendations for methods to fund such cost.

