

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4664

To direct the Secretary of Education to provide grants to establish sustainability centers, charged with developing and implementing integrated environmental, economic, and social sustainability programs through administrative and operational practices as well as multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach at institutions of higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. GREENWOOD, and Mr. WU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to provide grants to establish sustainability centers, charged with developing and implementing integrated environmental, economic, and social sustainability programs through administrative and operational practices as well as multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach at institutions of higher education.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Higher Education Sus-
3 tainability Act of 2004”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Progress on sustainable development re-
7 quires the simultaneous achievement of a well func-
8 tioning environmental system, economic viability
9 that creates new jobs and livable communities that
10 provide access to all for participation in their gov-
11 ernance.

12 (2) The Nation has improved some challenging
13 environmental conditions through application of best
14 technologies, but serious problems persist that re-
15 quire new science, technologies, and innovative policy
16 approaches that are flexible, and use market mecha-
17 nisms, and engage relevant stakeholders from the
18 private and public sectors.

19 (3) Achieving long-term economic prosperity re-
20 quires opportunities for employment and the mainte-
21 nance of a healthy environment for the workers.

22 (4) The Nation’s institutions of higher edu-
23 cation have a unique role to play in fostering new
24 knowledge, evaluating policies, and discovering new
25 technologies to address the persistent and often

1 linked environmental, social and economic problems
2 that exist.

3 (5) The Nation's higher education institutions
4 are places where approaches that integrate the envi-
5 ronmental, social and economic dimensions can be
6 designed, tested, and refined for application to real
7 world settings in collaboration with industry, govern-
8 ment and the nonprofit sector.

9 (6) The Nation's higher education institutions
10 are uniquely positioned to prepare the future labor
11 force for successful careers in the private and public
12 sectors that contribute to economic, environmental,
13 and social sustainability.

14 (7) The Nation's higher education institutions
15 are uniquely situated to be models of sustainable
16 management and operations that can provide exam-
17 ples to industry and government of operational
18 strategies that integrate the basic principles of envi-
19 ronmental, economic, and social sustainability.

20 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

21 (1) to provide support to faculty, staff, and stu-
22 dents at institutions of higher education to establish
23 both administrative and educational sustainability
24 programs on campus;

10 SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

13 **“PART E—UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY**
14 **CENTERS**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to eligible entities to establish sustainability centers to design and implement sustainability practices including in the areas of energy management, green building, waste management, purchasing, transportation, and toxics management other aspects of sustainability that integrate campus operations with multidisciplinary educational programs and are applicable to the private and government sectors.

1 “(b) PERIOD OF GRANT.—The provision of payments
2 under a grant under subsection (a) may extend over a pe-
3 riod of not more than 4 fiscal years.

4 “(c) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For pur-
5 poses of this part, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a com-
6 prehensive college or university that grants 4-year under-
7 graduate degrees and masters and doctoral degrees.

8 **“SEC. 772. APPLICATIONS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under section
10 771(a), an eligible entity shall submit an application to
11 the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing
12 such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

13 “(b) ASSURANCES.—Such application shall include
14 assurances that the eligible entity—

15 “(1) has developed or shall develop a plan, in-
16 cluding an evaluation component, for the program
17 component established pursuant to section 773;

18 “(2) shall use Federal funds received from a
19 grant under section 771(a) to supplement, not sup-
20 plant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be
21 available for projects funded under such section;

22 “(3) shall provide, with respect to any fiscal
23 year in which such entity receives funds from a
24 grant under section 771(a), non-Federal funds or an
25 in kind contribution in an amount equal to 20 per-

1 cent of funds from such grant, for the purpose of
2 carrying out the program component established in
3 section 773; and

4 “(4) shall collaborate with business, govern-
5 ment, and the nonprofit sectors in the development
6 and implementation of its sustainability plan.

7 **“SEC. 773. USE OF FUNDS.**

8 “Grants made under section 771 may be used by an
9 eligible entity only for establishing a sustainability pro-
10 gram—

11 “(1) to develop and implement administrative
12 and operations practices at institutions of higher
13 education that test, model, and analyze principles of
14 sustainability;

15 “(2) to establish multidisciplinary education, re-
16 search, and outreach programs at institutions of
17 higher education that address the environmental, so-
18 cial, and economic dimensions of sustainability;

19 “(3) to support research and teaching initia-
20 tives that focus on multidisciplinary and integrated
21 environmental, economic, and social elements;

22 “(4) to establish initiatives in the areas of en-
23 ergy management, green building, waste manage-
24 ment, purchasing, toxics management, transpor-
25 tation, and other aspects of sustainability; and

1 “(5) to support student, faculty, and staff work
2 at institutions of higher education to implement, re-
3 search, and evaluate sustainable practices.

4 **“SEC. 774. REPORTS.**

5 “An eligible entity that receives a grant under section
6 section 771(a) shall submit to the Secretary, for each fis-
7 cal year in which the entity receives amounts from such
8 grant, a report that describes the work conducted pursu-
9 ant to section 773, research findings and publications, ad-
10 ministrative savings experienced, and an evaluation of the
11 program.

12 **“SEC. 775. ALLOCATION REQUIREMENT.**

13 “The Secretary may not make grants under section
14 771(a) to any eligible entity in an amount totaling more
15 than 10 percent appropriated under section 776.

16 **“SEC. 776. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
18 priated to carry out section 771(a) \$50,000,000 for fiscal
19 year 2005 and such sums as may be necessary for each
20 of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

21 “(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under
22 subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.”.

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