

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 226

To strengthen and expand scientific and technological education capabilities of associate-degree-granting colleges through the establishment of partnership arrangements with bachelor-degree-granting institutions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2005

Mr. SWEENEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To strengthen and expand scientific and technological education capabilities of associate-degree-granting colleges through the establishment of partnership arrangements with bachelor-degree-granting institutions.

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 “Higher Education
5 Science and Technology Competitiveness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States is losing its dominance
2 in the sciences and technology, and faces serious
3 challenges from highly educated foreign competitors.

4 (2) The workforce of the United States must be
5 better prepared for the scientifically and techno-
6 logically advanced competition of the global econ-
7 omy.

8 (3) New scientific knowledge is the engine of
9 American technological innovation, national security,
10 economic growth, and prosperity.

11 (4) The competitiveness of the United States
12 depends on strengthening and expanding postsec-
13 ondary educational efforts in science, math, engi-
14 neering, and technology.

15 (5) Shortages of scientifically and techno-
16 logically educated workers will be best addressed
17 through partnerships between the Nation's associate
18 degree-granting colleges and public four-year col-
19 leges and universities.

20 (6) Enlarging the traditional role of community
21 colleges in workforce training by developing seamless
22 transitions from occupational competency or certifi-
23 cate programs to associate degree programs in math,
24 science, engineering, and technology.

1 **SEC. 3. ARTICULATION AGREEMENT PROGRAM.**

2 Part G of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
3 1965 is amended by inserting after section 486 (20 U.S.C.
4 1093) the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 486A. ARTICULATION AGREEMENT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) PURPOSE; DEFINITION.—

7 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is
8 to strengthen and expand scientific and technological
9 education capabilities of associate-degree-granting
10 public institutions of higher education through the
11 establishment of partnership arrangements with
12 bachelor-degree-granting public institutions of higher
13 education.

14 “(2) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this
15 section, the term ‘articulation agreement’ means an
16 agreement between institutions of higher education
17 that specifies the acceptability of courses in transfer
18 toward meeting specific degree requirements.

19 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

20 “(1) GRANTS TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—From
21 the sums appropriated under subsection (g), the Sec-
22 retary shall award grants under this section to pub-
23 lic institutions of higher education for the support of
24 programs to establish and implement statewide ar-
25 ticulation agreements in accordance with subsection
26 (d).

1 “(2) ELIGIBILITY OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS
2 TO PARTICIPATE IN AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in this
3 section shall be construed to preclude a nonprofit or
4 for-profit private institution of higher education
5 from participating in the development and imple-
6 mentation of a statewide articulation agreement
7 under subsection (d).

8 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—Each institution, system, or
9 consortium of institutions desiring to participate in a dem-
10 onstration program under this section shall submit an ap-
11 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
12 and containing such information and assurances as the
13 Secretary may require.

14 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds provided by grant
15 under this section may be used—

16 “(1) to establish statewide articulation agree-
17 ments in math, science, engineering, and technology
18 among public 2-year institutions and public 4-year
19 institutions to provide a seamless transition for the
20 transfer of students from the public 2-year institu-
21 tions to the public 4-year institutions by having both
22 such types of institutions provide and use a common
23 core curricula that reflects the workforce needs of
24 private industry;

1 “(2) to establish articulation agreements within
2 community colleges between occupational com-
3 petency or certification programs and associate de-
4 gree programs in math, science, engineering, and
5 technology to increase the proportion of students
6 who enroll to complete their associates degree;

7 “(3) to collect data on transfers from 2-year in-
8 stitutions to 4-year institutions on a regular basis
9 and to submit such data to commissioners or depart-
10 ments of higher education, for transmission by such
11 commissioners and departments to the Secretary, in
12 order to monitor program progress and success;

13 “(4) to develop a statewide articulation guide in
14 consultation with public colleges and universities to
15 provide students with descriptions of articulation re-
16 quirements; and

17 “(5) to develop a plan for professional develop-
18 ment of 2-year college faculty, including inter-insti-
19 tutional workshops, consultations, and professional
20 meetings.

21 “(e) EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.—The Secretary
22 shall collect from State commissioners and departments
23 the data provided by grant recipients under subsection
24 (d)(3) for the purposes of evaluating the success of the
25 program authorized by this section. The Secretary shall

1 submit a report on the results of such evaluation to the
2 Congress not later than 2 years after the end of the first
3 fiscal year for which funds are made available for grants
4 under this section.

5 “(f) ADDITIONAL DEFINITION.—The Secretary shall
6 by regulation define the term ‘degree programs in math,
7 science, engineering, and technology’.

8 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to make grants under
10 this section \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and such
11 sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding
12 fiscal years.”.

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