

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2493

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2006

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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 of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY OF CAMPUS BUILD-**
7 **INGS.**

8 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
9 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) ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORTS RE-
15 QUIRED.—Each institution participating in any pro-
16 gram under this title shall, beginning in the first
17 academic year that begins after the date of enact-
18 ment of the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act
19 of 2006, and each year thereafter, prepare, publish,
20 and distribute, through appropriate publications (in-
21 cluding the Internet) or mailings, to all current stu-
22 dents and employees, and to any applicant for en-
23 rollment or employment upon request, an annual fire
24 safety report. Such reports shall contain at least the

1 following information with respect to the campus fire
2 safety practices and standards of that institution:

3 “(A) A statement that identifies each insti-
4 tution owned or controlled student housing fa-
5 cility, and whether or not such facility is
6 equipped with a fire sprinkler system or other
7 fire safety system, or has fire escape planning
8 or protocols.

9 “(B) Statistics for each such facility con-
10 cerning the occurrence of fires and false alarms
11 in such facility, during the 2 preceding calendar
12 years for which data are available.

13 “(C) For each such occurrence in each
14 such facility, a summary of the human injuries
15 or deaths, structural or property damage, or
16 combination thereof.

17 “(D) Information regarding rules on port-
18 able electrical appliances, smoking and open
19 flames (such as candles), regular mandatory su-
20 pervised fire drills, and planned and future im-
21 provements in fire safety.

22 “(E) Information about fire safety edu-
23 cation and training provided to students, fac-
24 ulty, and staff.

“(F) Information concerning fire safety at any housing facility owned or controlled by a fraternity, sorority, or student group that is recognized by the institution, including—

“(i) information reported to the institution under paragraph (4); and

“(ii) a statement concerning whether and how the institution works with recognized student fraternities and sororities, and other recognized student groups owning or controlling housing facilities, to make building and property owned or controlled by such fraternities, sororities, and groups more fire safe.

“(2) FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER GROUPS.—Each institution participating in a program under this title shall request each fraternity and sorority that is recognized by the institution, and any other student group that is recognized by the institution and that owns or controls housing facilities, to collect and report to the institution the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1), as applied to the fraternity, sorority, or recognized student group, respectively,

1 for each building and property owned or controlled
2 by the fraternity, sorority, or group, respectively.

3 “(3) CURRENT INFORMATION TO CAMPUS COM-
4 MUNITY.—Each institution participating in any pro-
5 gram under this title shall make, keep, and maintain
6 a log, written in a form that can be easily under-
7 stood, recording all on-campus fires, including the
8 nature, date, time, and general location of each fire
9 and all false fire alarms. All entries that are re-
10 quired pursuant to this paragraph shall, except
11 where disclosure of such information is prohibited by
12 law, be open to public inspection, and each such in-
13 stitution shall make annual reports to the campus
14 community on such fires and false fire alarms in a
15 manner that will aid the prevention of similar occur-
16 rences.

17 “(4) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.—On an an-
18 nual basis, each institution participating in any pro-
19 gram under this title shall submit to the Secretary
20 a copy of the statistics required to be made available
21 under paragraph (1)(B). The Secretary shall—

22 “(A) review such statistics;

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

1 “(C) in coordination with nationally recog-
 2 nized fire organizations and representatives of
 3 institutions of higher education, identify exem-
 4 plary fire safety policies, procedures, and prac-
 5 tices and disseminate information concerning
 6 those policies, procedures, and practices that
 7 have proven effective in the reduction of cam-
 8 pus fires.

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

14 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
 15 term ‘campus’ has the meaning provided in sub-
 16 section (f)(6).”.

17 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY THE SECRETARY OF**
 18 **EDUCATION.**

19 (a) DEFINITION OF FACILITY.—In this section the
 20 term “facility” means a student housing facility owned or
 21 controlled by an institution of higher education, or a hous-
 22 ing facility owned or controlled by a fraternity, sorority,
 23 or student group that is recognized by the institution.

1 (b) REPORT.—Within two years after the date of en-
2 actment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall pre-
3 pare and submit to the Congress a report containing—

4 (1) an analysis of the current status of fire
5 safety systems in facilities of institutions partici-
6 pating in programs under title IV of the Higher
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), in-
8 cluding sprinkler systems;

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

16 (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all non-
17 conforming such facilities up to current building
18 codes; and

19 (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-
20 cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-
21 ards in all such facilities, including recommendations
22 for methods to fund such cost.

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