

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 379

To build capacity at community colleges in order to meet increased demand for community college education while maintaining the affordable tuition rates and the open-door policy that are the hallmarks of the community college system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. OBAMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To build capacity at community colleges in order to meet increased demand for community college education while maintaining the affordable tuition rates and the open-door policy that are the hallmarks of the community college system.

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. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAPACITY-BUILDING 4 GRANT PROGRAM.

5 Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating part F as part G; and

1 (2) by inserting after part E the following:

2 **“PART F—COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

3 "SEC. 371. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAPACITY-BUILDING

4 GRANT PROGRAM.

5 "(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-
7 priated under section 399(a)(6) for a fiscal year, the
8 Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities, on
9 a competitive basis, for the purpose of building ca-
10 pacity at community colleges to meet the increased
11 demand for community colleges while maintaining
12 the affordable tuition rates and the open-door policy
13 that are the hallmarks of the community college sys-
14 tem.

15 “(2) DURATION.—Grants awarded under this
16 section shall be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

17 "(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘com-
19 munity college’ means a public institution of higher
20 education (as defined in section 101(a)) whose high-
21 est degree awarded is predominantly the associate
22 degree.

23 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
24 tity’ means a community college, or a consortium of
25 2 or more community colleges, that demonstrates ca-

1 capacity challenges at not less than 1 of the commu-
2 nity colleges in the eligible entity, such as—

3 “(A) an identified workforce shortage in
4 the community served by the community college
5 that will be addressed by increased enrollment
6 at the community college;

7 “(B) a wait list for a class or for a degree
8 or a certificate program;

9 “(C) a faculty shortage;

10 “(D) a significant enrollment growth;

11 “(E) a significant projected enrollment
12 growth;

13 “(F) an increase in the student-faculty
14 ratio;

15 “(G) a shortage of laboratory space or
16 equipment;

17 “(H) a shortage of computer equipment
18 and technology;

19 “(I) out-of-date computer equipment and
20 technology;

21 “(J) a decrease in State or county funding
22 or a related budget shortfall; or

23 “(K) another demonstrated capacity short-
24 fall.

1 “(c) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity desiring a
2 grant under this section shall submit an application to the
3 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
4 by such information as the Secretary may reasonably re-
5 quire by regulation.

6 “(d) AWARD BASIS.—In awarding grants under sub-
7 section (a), the Secretary shall take into consideration—

8 “(1) the relative need for assistance under this
9 section of the community colleges;

10 “(2) the probable impact and overall quality of
11 the proposed activities on the capacity problem of
12 the community college;

13 “(3) providing an equitable geographic distribu-
14 tion of grant funds under this section throughout
15 the United States and among urban, suburban, and
16 rural areas of the United States; and

17 “(4) providing an equitable distribution among
18 small, medium, and large community colleges.

19 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds provided under
20 subsection (a) may be used for activities that expand com-
21 munity college capacity, including—

22 “(1) the construction, maintenance, renovation,
23 and improvement of classroom, library, laboratory,
24 and other instructional facilities;

1 “(2) the purchase, rental, or lease of scientific
2 or laboratory equipment for educational purposes,
3 including instructional research purposes;

4 “(3) the development, improvement, or expan-
5 sion of technology;

6 “(4) preparation and professional development
7 of faculty;

8 “(5) recruitment, hiring, and retention of fac-
9 ulty;

10 “(6) curriculum development and academic in-
11 struction;

12 “(7) the purchase of library books, periodicals,
13 and other educational materials, including tele-
14 communications program material;

15 “(8) the joint use of facilities, such as labora-
16 tories and libraries; or

17 “(9) the development of partnerships with local
18 businesses to increase community college capacity.

19 **“SEC. 372. APPLICABILITY.**

20 “The provisions of part G (other than section 399)
21 shall not apply to this part.”.

22 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 Section 399(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
24 (20 U.S.C. 1068h(a)) is amended by adding at the end
25 the following:

1 “(6) PART F.—There are authorized to be ap-
2 propriated to carry out part F, \$500,000,000 for fis-
3 cal year 2006, and such sums as may be necessary
4 for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

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