

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4152

To provide loan forgiveness under the Federal Perkins Loan program for
Federal, State, and local fire fighters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2007

Mr. SARBANES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To provide loan forgiveness under the Federal Perkins Loan
program for Federal, State, and local fire fighters.

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 “Fire Fighter Higher
5 Education Incentive Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Fire fighters provide an immeasurable serv-
9 ice to the Nation, putting their lives, health, and
10 safety on the line every day to protect communities

1 and citizens from everyday emergencies and large-
2 scale disasters.

3 (2) According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Sta-
4 tistics, nearly 78 percent of fire fighters age twenty-
5 five to forty-four have pursued a higher education.

6 (3) As modern fire fighter responsibilities have
7 become increasingly complex and more dependent on
8 advanced technology, achieving a highly educated
9 fire service will enable fire fighters to carry out a
10 safe and effective response.

11 (4) According to the International City/County
12 Management Association, the national average en-
13 trance salary for full-time fire fighters is \$34,688,
14 while the average maximum salary is \$47,386.

15 (5) The rising cost of college education, com-
16 bined with the relatively low wages earned by fire
17 fighters, makes it difficult for many full-time fire
18 fighters to afford student loan debt.

19 **SEC. 3. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR FIRE FIGHTERS.**

20 Section 465(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
21 (20 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (H), by striking “or”
24 after the semicolon;

1 (B) in subparagraph (I), by striking the
2 period and inserting “; or”; and

3 (C) by inserting before the matter fol-
4 lowing subparagraph (I) the following:

5 “(J) as a full-time employee in fire protec-
6 tion activities, as described in section 3(y) of
7 the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C.
8 203(y)), but including a full-time employee in
9 fire protection activities of a Federal depart-
10 ment or agency (as well as an employee of a
11 State, municipality, county, or fire district).”;
12 and

13 (2) in paragraph 3(A)(i), by striking “or (I)”
14 and inserting “(I) or (J)”.

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