

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 592

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. HARE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. LEE, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. OLVER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. CLAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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 2007”.

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

3 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1092) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

6 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
7 paragraph (N);

8 (B) by striking the period at the end of
9 subparagraph (O) and inserting “; and”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following new
11 subparagraph:

12 “(P) the fire safety report prepared by the in-
13 stitution pursuant to subsection (h).”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(h) DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND
17 MEASURES.—

18 “(1) ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORTS RE-
19 QUIRED.—Each eligible institution participating in
20 any program under this title shall, beginning in the
21 first academic year that begins after the date of en-
22 actment of the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know
23 Act of 2007, and each year thereafter—

24 “(A) prepare, publish, and distribute,
25 through appropriate publications (including the
26 Internet) or mailings, to all current students

1 and employees, and to any applicant for enroll-
2 ment or employment upon request, an annual
3 fire safety report, which shall contain informa-
4 tion with respect to the campus fire safety prac-
5 tices and standards of that institution, includ-
6 ing:

7 “(i) a statement that identifies each
8 student housing facility owned or con-
9 trolled by the institution, and whether each
10 such facility is equipped with a full fire
11 sprinkler system or other fire safety sys-
12 tems, fire escape planning or protocols, or
13 both;

14 “(ii) statistics for each student hous-
15 ing facility concerning the occurrence of
16 fires and unwanted and false alarms in
17 each such facility, during the 2 preceding
18 calendar years for which data are avail-
19 able;

20 “(iii) for each such occurrence in fa-
21 cilities described in clauses (i) and (ii), a
22 summary of the human injuries or deaths,
23 structural and property damage, or com-
24 bination thereof;

1 “(iv) information regarding rules on
2 portable electrical appliances, smoking and
3 open flames (such as candles), regular
4 mandatory supervised fire drills, and
5 planned and future improvements in fire
6 safety; and

7 “(v) information about fire safety edu-
8 cation and training provided to students,
9 faculty, and staff; and

10 “(B) submit to the Secretary a copy of the
11 statistics required to be made available under
12 subparagraph (A)(ii).

13 “(2) FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER
14 STUDENT GROUPS THAT OWN, CONTROL, OR OCCUPY
15 HOUSING FACILITIES.—

16 “(A) REPORTS BY ORGANIZING BODIES.—

17 Each institution participating in a program
18 under this title shall, as a condition of recog-
19 nizing and permitting the operation of any fra-
20 ternity, sorority, or other student group that is
21 recognized by the institution and that owns,
22 controls, or occupies student housing facilities,
23 require the national organizing body of such
24 fraternity, sorority, or other student group, be-
25 ginning in the first academic year that begins

1 after the date of enactment of the Campus Fire
2 Safety Right-to-Know Act of 2007, and each
3 year thereafter—

4 “(i) to collect the information de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A), for each
6 building and property that contains stu-
7 dent housing facilities and that is owned,
8 controlled, or occupied by the fraternity,
9 sorority, or group, respectively;

10 “(ii) beginning in the first academic
11 year that begins after the date of enact-
12 ment of the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-
13 Know Act of 2007, and each year there-
14 after, to prepare, publish, and distribute,
15 through appropriate publications (including
16 the Internet) or mailings to all current
17 members, and to any interested party upon
18 request, an annual fire safety report in ac-
19 cordance with subparagraph (B) of this
20 paragraph; and

21 “(iii) to submit to the Secretary a
22 copy of the statistics described in para-
23 graph (1)(A)(ii) and required to be col-
24 lected under clause (i) of this subpara-
25 graph.

1 “(B) CONTENTS OF ANNUAL REPORTS.—

2 The annual fire safety reports required under
3 subparagraph (A)(ii) of this paragraph shall
4 contain the following:

5 “(i) Information concerning fire safety
6 at any student housing facilities owned or
7 controlled by the recognized fraternity, so-
8 rority, or other student group required to
9 be collected under subparagraph (A)(i) of
10 this paragraph.

11 “(ii) A statement concerning whether
12 and how the recognized fraternity, sorority,
13 or other student group owning, controlling,
14 or occupying student housing facilities
15 works with hosting academic institutions to
16 make buildings and property owned or con-
17 trolled by such fraternities, sororities, or
18 student groups more fire safe.

19 “(3) CURRENT INFORMATION TO CAMPUS COM-
20 MUNITY.—Each institution participating in any pro-
21 gram under this title shall make, keep, and maintain
22 a log, written in a form that can be easily under-
23 stood, recording all on-campus fires, including the
24 nature, date, time, and general location of each fire
25 and all unwanted and false fire alarms. All entries

1 that are required pursuant to this paragraph shall,
2 except where disclosure of such information is pro-
3 hibited by law, be open to public inspection, and
4 each such institution shall make annual reports to
5 the campus community on such fires and unwanted
6 and false fire alarms in a manner that will aid the
7 prevention of similar occurrences.

8 “(4) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

9 The Secretary shall—

10 “(A) review the statistics submitted under
11 paragraph (1)(B) and paragraph (2)(A)(iii);

12 “(B) make such statistics submitted to the
13 Secretary available to the public; and

14 “(C) in coordination with nationally recog-
15 nized fire organizations and representatives of
16 institutions of higher education, identify exem-
17 plary fire safety policies, procedures, programs,
18 and practices and disseminate information to
19 the United States Fire Administrator and make
20 available to the public information concerning
21 those policies, procedures, programs, and prac-
22 tices that have proven effective in the reduction
23 of campus fires.

24 “(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
25 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the

1 Secretary to require particular policies, procedures,
2 programs, or practices by institutions of higher edu-
3 cation with respect to fire safety, other than with re-
4 spect to the collection, reporting, and dissemination
5 of information required by this subsection.

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

9 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY SECRETARY OF EDU-**
10 **CATION.**

11 Within two years after the date of enactment of this
12 Act, the Secretary of Education shall prepare and submit
13 to the Congress a report containing—

14 (1) an analysis of the status of fire safety sys-
15 tems in college and university facilities, including
16 sprinkler systems;

17 (2) an analysis of the appropriate fire safety
18 standards to apply to these facilities, which the Sec-
19 retary shall prepare after consultation with such fire
20 safety experts, representatives of institutions of
21 higher education, and other Federal agencies as the
22 Secretary, in the Secretary’s discretion, considers
23 appropriate;

1 (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all non-
2 conforming student housing facilities up to the
3 building codes in effect at the time of the report;

4 (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-
5 cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-
6 ards in all college and university facilities, including
7 recommendations for methods to fund the cost de-
8 scribed in paragraph (3); and

9 (5) examples of exemplary fire safety education
10 and training programs at colleges and universities
11 and recommendations for wide adoption of similar
12 programs among institutions of higher education.

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