

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. SHEAPORTER, 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);

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 BE-

19 REQUIRED.—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 enrollment
2 or employment upon request, an annual
3 fire safety report, which shall contain information
4 with respect to the campus fire safety practices
5 and standards of that institution, including:
6

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

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

19 “(iii) for each such occurrence in facilities described in clauses (i) and (ii), a
20 summary of the human injuries or deaths,
21 structural and property damage, or combination thereof;
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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—

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:

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

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