

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1609

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support fire safety education programs on college campuses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2013

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support fire safety education programs on college campuses.

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 Education Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to help provide fire safety
8 education and training to students attending institutions
9 of higher education.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY**
2 **EDUCATION COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM.**—From
4 the amounts appropriated under section 7, the Secretary,
5 in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish a
6 grant program to award grants, on a competitive basis,
7 to eligible entities for—

8 (1) initiating, expanding, or improving fire safe-
9 ty education programs at institutions of higher edu-
10 cation; and

11 (2) increasing fire safety awareness among stu-
12 dents enrolled at such institutions, including stu-
13 dents living in off-campus housing.

14 (b) **APPLICATION.**—To seek a grant under this Act,
15 an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Sec-
16 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such
17 information as the Secretary may require.

18 (c) **SELECTION PRIORITY.**—In making grants under
19 this Act, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible enti-
20 ties that plan to use grant funds received under this Act
21 to initiate, expand, or improve fire safety education pro-
22 grams that include educational material specifically pre-
23 pared for students with physical, sensory, or cognitive dis-
24 abilities.

25 (d) **GRANT PERIOD.**—Grants under this Act shall be
26 awarded for not longer than a 2-year period, and may be

1 renewed for an additional 2-year period, at the Secretary's
2 discretion.

3 (e) GRANT SIZE.—The Secretary shall ensure that
4 grants awarded under this Act are of sufficient size and
5 scope to enable grantees to carry out all required activities
6 and otherwise meet the purpose of this Act, except that
7 an eligible entity may not be awarded more than \$250,000
8 per fiscal year under this Act.

9 (f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An eligible entity re-
10 ceiving a grant under this Act shall provide non-Federal
11 matching funds in an amount equal to not less than 25
12 percent of the costs of the activities for which assistance
13 is sought. Such non-Federal matching funds may be in
14 cash or in-kind.

15 (g) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
16 available under this Act shall be used to supplement, not
17 supplant, other Federal, State, or private funds that would
18 otherwise be expended to carry out fire safety education
19 programs.

20 **SEC. 4. REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.**

21 (a) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity
22 receiving a grant under this Act shall use grant funds to
23 initiate, expand, or improve a fire safety education pro-
24 gram that—

1 (1) in the case of an eligible entity that is an
2 institution of higher education, reaches, to the ex-
3 tent practicable, all students enrolled in the institu-
4 tion of higher education, including students living
5 on-campus and off-campus;

6 (2) is carried out in a manner to ensure max-
7 imum exposure to, increased awareness of, and effec-
8 tuate change in behavior with respect to fire safety
9 by students through—

10 (A) conducting outreach to students at a
11 minimum of twice per academic year (at the be-
12 ginning of the fall and spring semesters, or the
13 equivalent); and

14 (B) measures that provide fire safety infor-
15 mation to any student upon the request of the
16 student;

17 (3) includes minimum instruction with respect
18 to—

19 (A) awareness of fire behavior;

20 (B) mechanisms of fire injury and death;

21 (C) common ignition scenarios;

22 (D) fire safety systems such as automatic
23 fire sprinklers;

24 (E) fire alarms;

25 (F) fire extinguishers;

1 (G) importance of means of egress;

2 (H) fire prevention techniques that may
3 prevent a fire from occurring (such as candle
4 safety, cooking safety, and smoking safety); and

5 (I) fire safety actions to be taken if a fire
6 occurs to minimize the potential for death, in-
7 jury, and property damage (such as knowing
8 how to use a fire extinguisher, how to put out
9 a cooking fire, calling 911, and evacuating);
10 and

11 (4) includes a mechanism for carrying out the
12 evaluations described in subsection (b).

13 (b) EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after
14 the end of an eligible entity's grant period, the eligible en-
15 tity shall—

16 (1) conduct an evaluation on the effectiveness
17 of the program carried out by the entity in increas-
18 ing awareness or improving fire safety behavior at
19 such entity; and

20 (2) prepare and submit to the Secretary a re-
21 port on the results of the evaluation conducted by
22 the entity.

23 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

24 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 12
25 months after the date of receipt of the first report sub-

mitted pursuant to section 4(b)(2) and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall provide to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) The number and types of eligible entities receiving assistance under this Act.

(2) The fire safety education programs being implemented with assistance under this Act and the costs of such programs.

(3) Any other information determined by the Secretary to be useful in evaluating the overall effectiveness of the program established under this Act in improving the fire safety knowledge of college students.

(b) BEST PRACTICES REPORT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall use the information provided under subsection (a) to publish a report of best practices for initiating, expanding, or improving fire safety education programs that shall be made available to all institutions of higher education and other interested parties.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the United

1 States Fire Administration of the Federal Emer-
2 gency Management Agency.

3 (2) FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The
4 term “fire safety education program” means a pro-
5 gram that provides fire safety and prevention activi-
6 ties.

7 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
8 term “institution of higher education” has the
9 meaning given to such term in section 101 of the
10 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

11 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
12 ty” means an institution of higher education, or con-
13 sortium of institutions of higher education located in
14 the same State, in a collaborative partnership with
15 a nonprofit organization or a public safety depart-
16 ment. Such a collaborative partnership may also in-
17 clude a social fraternity or sorority exempt from tax-
18 ation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue
19 Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(a)), the active mem-
20 bership of which consists primarily of students en-
21 rolled at the institution or institutions.

22 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Education.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2014
4 through 2018.

○