

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1062

To improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 2015

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To improve the Federal Pell Grant program, 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 “Year-Round Pell Grant
5 Restoration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Congressional Budget Office reports on
9 any overall financial surplus or shortfall in the fund-
10 ing provided for the Federal Pell Grant program.

1 However, in recent years, in order to meet the max-
2 imum Federal Pell Grant level with the provided
3 level of funding, Congress has made cuts to the pro-
4 gram through imposing additional eligibility require-
5 ments for Federal Pell Grants and limiting the avail-
6 ability of year-round Federal Pell Grants, causing
7 significant uncertainty and reducing access to higher
8 education for millions of hardworking college stu-
9 dents.

10 (2) The “traditional student” who attends col-
11 lege for 4 years immediately after high school is now
12 a minority of college students today. Ambitious stu-
13 dents now need more flexibility to attend school
14 year-round while juggling work schedules.

15 (3) Section 1860 of the Department of Defense
16 and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011
17 (Public Law 112–10, 125 Stat. 169) eliminated the
18 provision of the Federal Pell Grant program of the
19 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et
20 seq.) that allowed more than 1 Federal Pell Grant
21 awards per year, creating significant hardship for
22 many students trying to take courses over the sum-
23 mer or outside the traditional school calendar. Al-
24 lowing students to continue to receive Federal Pell

1 Grants in successive semesters, without a gap, would
2 reduce the time needed to complete their degrees.

3 **SEC. 3. YEAR-ROUND FEDERAL PELL GRANT STUDENTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(b) of the Higher
5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following:

7 “(8)(A) In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible student’
8 means a student who—

9 “(i) has received a Federal Pell Grant for an
10 award year and is enrolled in an eligible program for
11 1 or more additional payment periods during the
12 same award year that are not otherwise fully covered
13 by the student’s Federal Pell Grant;

14 “(ii) continues to meets all eligibility require-
15 ments to receive a Federal Pell Grant under this
16 section; and

17 “(iii) attends an institution of higher education
18 on average, not less than a half-time basis.

19 “(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
20 subsection, the Secretary shall award an additional Fed-
21 eral Pell Grant to an eligible student for the additional
22 payment periods during an award year that are not other-
23 wise fully covered by the student’s Federal Pell Grant for
24 the award year.

1 “(C) In the case of a student receiving more than
2 one Federal Pell Grant in a single award year under sub-
3 paragraph (B), the total amount of the Federal Pell
4 Grants awarded to such student for the award year shall
5 not exceed an amount equal to 150 percent of the total
6 maximum Federal Pell Grant for such award year cal-
7 culated in accordance with paragraph (2).

8 “(D) Any period of study covered by a Federal Pell
9 Grant awarded under subparagraph (B) shall be included
10 in determining a student’s duration limit under subsection
11 (c)(5).

12 “(9) In any case where an eligible student is receiving
13 a Federal Pell Grant for a payment period that spans 2
14 award years, the Secretary shall allow the eligible institu-
15 tion in which the student is enrolled to determine the
16 award year to which the additional period shall be as-
17 signed.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
19 subsection (a) shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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