

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2560

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make college affordable  
and accessible.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. FRANKEN) introduced the  
following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make college  
affordable and accessible.

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 “Making College Afford-  
5       able and Accessible Act of 2016”.

6       **SEC. 2. CREDIT-BASED ACADEMIC TRANSITION PROGRAMS.**

7       Part B of title VII of the Higher Education Act of  
8       1965 (20 U.S.C. 1138 et seq.) is amended—

9               (1) by redesignating section 745 as section 746;

1           (2) in section 746, as redesignated by para-  
 2           graph (1), by striking “fiscal year 2009” and insert-  
 3           ing “fiscal year 2017”; and

4           (3) by inserting after section 744 the following:

5   **“SEC. 745. CREDIT-BASED ACADEMIC TRANSITION PRO-**  
 6                           **GRAMS.**

7           “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ex-  
 8           pand access for high school students to the opportunities  
 9           offered in credit-based academic transition programs es-  
 10          tablished through partnerships between high schools and  
 11          institutions of higher education utilizing dual or concur-  
 12          rent enrollment programs or early college high school pro-  
 13          grams that enable such students to earn college credits  
 14          while in high school.

15          “(b) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—In this section, the  
 16          term ‘eligible institution’ means an institution of higher  
 17          education that carries out a dual or concurrent enrollment  
 18          program or an early college high school program that en-  
 19          ables high school students to earn college credits while in  
 20          high school.

21          “(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may  
 22          award grants to eligible institutions to carry out credit-  
 23          based academic transition programs described in sub-  
 24          section (a).

1       “(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution that de-  
 2       sires to receive a grant under this section shall submit to  
 3       the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,  
 4       and containing such information as the Secretary may re-  
 5       quire.

6       “(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
 7       tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible institu-  
 8       tions that serve students from low-income families, stu-  
 9       dents from rural communities, or students who are the  
 10      first in their family to receive postsecondary education.

11      “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that re-  
 12      ceives a grant under this section shall use the grant  
 13      funds—

14           “(1) to carry out a dual or concurrent enroll-  
 15      ment program or an early college high school pro-  
 16      gram for high school students, through which such  
 17      students while enrolled in high school are enrolled in  
 18      postsecondary courses at the eligible institution,  
 19      through which such students can earn college credits  
 20      that can be transferred to 2-year and 4-year institu-  
 21      tions of higher education in the State;

22           “(2) to provide teachers, principals, and other  
 23      school leaders with professional development activi-  
 24      ties that enhance or enable the provision of postsec-  
 25      ondary coursework through a dual or concurrent en-

rollment program or an early college high school program; and

“(3) to support activities such as—

“(A) designing the curriculum and sequence of courses in collaboration with teachers from the local educational agency and faculty from the eligible institution;

“(B) establishing a course articulation process for defining and approving courses for high school and postsecondary credit or credentials for both 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education in the State;

“(C) outreach programs to provide elementary school and secondary school students, especially those in middle grades, and their parents, teachers, school counselors, and principals information about and academic preparation for the credit-based academic transition programs described in subsection (a);

“(D) helping students meet eligibility criteria for postsecondary courses and ensuring that students understand how credits earned will transfer to institutions of higher education in the State; and

1                   “(E) coordinating secondary and postsec-  
 2                   ondary support services and academic cal-  
 3                   endars.

4           “(g) FLEXIBILITY OF FUNDS.—An eligible institu-  
 5           tion that receives a grant under this section may use grant  
 6           funds for any of the costs associated with carrying out  
 7           credit-based academic transition programs described in  
 8           subsection (a), including the costs of—

9                   “(1) tuition and fees, books, and required in-  
 10                  structional materials for such program so that stu-  
 11                  dents will not be required to pay tuition or fees for  
 12                  postsecondary courses; and

13                  “(2) transportation to and from such program.

14           “(h) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Each eligible insti-  
 15           tution receiving a grant under this section shall—

16                  “(1) conduct an independent evaluation of the  
 17                  effectiveness of the activities carried out by such eli-  
 18                  gible institution under this section; and

19                  “(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary a re-  
 20                  port containing the results of the evaluation de-  
 21                  scribed in paragraph (1).

22           “(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
 23           tion shall be construed to impose on any State or public  
 24           institution of higher education any requirement or rule re-  
 25           garding credit-based academic transition programs de-

1 scribed in subsection (a) that is inconsistent with State  
2 law.”.

