

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2554

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a program that automatically enrolls certain community college graduates into 4-year public institutions of higher education.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2017

Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CRIST, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

---

## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a program that automatically enrolls certain community college graduates into 4-year public institutions of higher education.

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 “Direct Connect to Suc-  
5       cess Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DIRECT CONNECT TO SUCCESS.**

2 Part B of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
3 (20 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 124. DIRECT CONNECT TO SUCCESS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives assist-  
7 ance under this Act shall carry out a program under  
8 which—

9 “(1) each eligible graduate of a community col-  
10 lege in the State, upon graduating from such com-  
11 munity college—

12 “(A) is automatically enrolled at a 4-year  
13 public institution of higher education in the  
14 State for the purpose of completing a bachelor’s  
15 degree at such institution after 2 years of such  
16 admission, as long as the graduate meets all  
17 other admission requirements of the institution;  
18 and

19 “(B) will have the credits of the graduate  
20 from the community college transfer to such in-  
21 stitution; and

22 “(2) the administrators of each participating 4-  
23 year public institutions of higher education in the  
24 State shall meet, on a periodic basis, with first-year  
25 students at the community colleges in the State to

1 assist in developing and maintaining a 4-year aca-  
2 demic plan for the students.

3 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘com-  
5 munity college’ means a 2-year public institution of  
6 higher education.

7 “(2) ELIGIBLE GRADUATE.—The term ‘eligible  
8 graduate’ means an individual who graduates from  
9 a community college with at least 2.0 grade point  
10 average, or the equivalent.

11 “(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
12 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the  
13 meaning given the term in section 101.”.

○