

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 246

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 30, 2017

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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 2017”.

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. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
4 trator” means the Administrator of the United
5 States Fire Administration of the Federal Emer-
6 gency Management Agency.

7 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
8 ty” means an institution of higher education, or a
9 consortium of institutions of higher education lo-
10 cated in the same State, in a collaborative partner-
11 ship with a nonprofit organization or a public safety
12 department. Such a collaborative partnership may
13 also include a social fraternity or sorority exempt
14 from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal
15 Revenue Code of 1986, the active membership of
16 which consists primarily of students enrolled at the
17 institution or institutions.

18 (3) FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The
19 term “fire safety education program” means a pro-
20 gram that provides fire safety and prevention activi-
21 ties.

22 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
23 term “institution of higher education” has the
24 meaning given to such term in section 101 of the
25 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Education.

3 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY**
4 **EDUCATION COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.**

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

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

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

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

20 (c) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In making grants under
21 this Act, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible enti-
22 ties that plan to use grant funds to initiate, expand, or
23 improve fire safety education programs that include edu-
24 cational material specifically prepared for students with
25 physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.

1 (d) GRANT PERIOD.—Grants under this Act shall be
2 awarded for not longer than a 2-year period, and may be
3 renewed for an additional 2-year period, at the Secretary’s
4 discretion.

5 (e) GRANT SIZE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
7 the Secretary shall ensure that grants awarded
8 under this Act are of sufficient size and scope to en-
9 able eligible entities to carry out all required activi-
10 ties and otherwise meet the purpose of this Act.

11 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—An eligible entity may
12 not be awarded more than \$250,000 per fiscal year
13 under this Act.

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

20 (g) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
21 available under this Act shall be used to supplement, not
22 supplant, other Federal, State, or private funds that would
23 otherwise be expended to carry out fire safety education
24 programs.

1 **SEC. 5. REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.**

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

6 (1) in the case of an eligible entity that is an
7 institution of higher education, reaches, to the ex-
8 tent practicable, all students enrolled in the institu-
9 tion of higher education, including students living on
10 campus and off campus;

11 (2) is carried out in a manner to ensure max-
12 imum exposure to, increase awareness of, and effec-
13 tuate change in behavior with respect to fire safety
14 by students through—

15 (A) conducting outreach to students at a
16 minimum of twice per academic year (at the be-
17 ginning of the fall and spring semesters, or the
18 equivalent); and

19 (B) measures that provide fire safety infor-
20 mation to any student upon the request of the
21 student;

22 (3) includes minimum instruction with respect
23 to—

24 (A) awareness of fire behavior;

25 (B) mechanisms of fire injury and death;

26 (C) common ignition scenarios;

1 (D) fire safety systems such as automatic
 2 fire sprinklers;

3 (E) fire alarms;

4 (F) fire extinguishers;

5 (G) importance of means of egress;

6 (H) fire prevention techniques that may
 7 prevent a fire from occurring (such as candle
 8 safety, cooking safety, and smoking safety); and

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

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

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

20 (1) conduct an evaluation on the effectiveness
 21 of the program carried out by the eligible entity in
 22 increasing awareness or improving fire safety behav-
 23 ior at such eligible entity; and

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

4 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

5 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 12
6 months after the date of receipt of the first report sub-
7 mitted pursuant to section 5(b)(2) and annually there-
8 after, the Secretary shall provide to Congress a report that
9 includes the following:

10 (1) The number and types of eligible entities re-
11 ceiving assistance under this Act.

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

15 (3) Any other information determined by the
16 Secretary to be useful in evaluating the overall effec-
17 tiveness of the program established under this Act in
18 improving the fire safety knowledge of college stu-
19 dents.

20 (b) BEST PRACTICES REPORT.—The Secretary, in
21 consultation with the Administrator, shall use the infor-
22 mation provided under subsection (a) to publish a report
23 of best practices for initiating, expanding, or improving
24 fire safety education programs that shall be made avail-

1 able to all institutions of higher education and other inter-
2 ested parties.

3 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this Act \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018
6 through 2022.

