

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3503

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a pilot program to make grants to institutions of higher education to pay the costs of obtaining a United States passport necessary for certain students to participate in a study abroad program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a pilot program to make grants to institutions of higher education to pay the costs of obtaining a United States passport necessary for certain students to participate in a study abroad program.

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 “Passport Assistance
5 for Disadvantaged Students Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
3 a pilot program to make grants to institutions of higher
4 education to—

5 (1) reimburse a student who is a Pell Grant re-
6 cipient enrolled at the institution for the costs of ob-
7 taining a United States passport necessary for such
8 student to participate in a study abroad program;
9 and

10 (2) in coordination with the Secretary of State,
11 directly pay the costs described in paragraph (1) in
12 the case of a United States passport event carried
13 out by the Secretary of State on the campus of such
14 institution.

15 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
16 under this section, an institution of higher education shall,
17 not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
18 this Act, submit an application to the Secretary that in-
19 cludes—

20 (1) the number of Pell Grant recipients enrolled
21 at the institution that participated in a study abroad
22 program during each of the 5 years before the date
23 of such application;

24 (2) an assurance that the institution will report
25 to the Secretary the number of Pell Grant recipients
26 enrolled at the institution that participated in a

1 study abroad program annually for each of the 4
2 years after the date on which the application is sub-
3 mitted;

4 (3) a description of how the institution will en-
5 gage in student outreach in carrying a grant under
6 this section;

7 (4) such other information as the Secretary
8 may require.

9 (c) AWARDS.—

10 (1) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 2 years
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary shall make grants under subsection (a) to
13 each of the following:

14 (A) A four-year public institution of higher
15 education.

16 (B) A public historically Black college or
17 university.

18 (C) A public Hispanic-serving institution.

19 (2) OTHER AWARDS.—After making the awards
20 required under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

21 (A) may make grants to additional institu-
22 tions of higher education; and

23 (B) shall give priority under subparagraph

24 (A) to institutions of higher education with

1 study abroad programs that offer science, tech-
2 nology, engineering, and math courses.

3 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) INSTITUTION REPORTING.—An institution
5 of higher education that receives a grant under this
6 section shall not later than 1 year after receiving
7 such grant submit to the Secretary and the Sec-
8 retary of State a report that includes—

9 (A) a description of the student outreach
10 carried out through a grant under this section;
11 and

12 (B) the number of Pell Grant recipients
13 who—

14 (i) obtained a United States passport
15 pursuant to such grant; and

16 (ii) participated in a study abroad
17 program in the year after the institution
18 received such grant.

19 (2) DEPARTMENT REPORTING.—Not later than
20 1 year after the date of the enactment of this sec-
21 tion, and annually for the 3 years thereafter, the
22 Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of
23 State, shall submit a report to Congress that in-
24 cludes—

1 (A) a description of the awards made
2 under this section; and

3 (B) an assessment of the pilot program
4 under this section.

5 (e) FINAL ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date on which the pilot program authority terminates
7 under subsection (f), the Secretary and the Secretary of
8 State shall each—

9 (1) prepare an assessment of the pilot program,
10 including a recommendation as to whether—

11 (A) the pilot program should be continued
12 and expanded; or

13 (B) a similar program related to other
14 higher education programs, such as graduate
15 and postgraduate programs, community col-
16 leges, vocational programs, and apprenticeship
17 programs, should be carried out; and

18 (2) submit such assessment to Congress.

19 (f) TERM.—The authority to carry out the pilot pro-
20 gram under this section shall terminate on the date that
21 is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$500,000 for fiscal year 2021 and each of the succeeding
25 3 fiscal years.

1 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
3 term “Hispanic-serving institution” has the meaning
4 given the term under section 502 of the Higher
5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a).

6 (2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
7 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or
8 university” has the meaning given the term “part B
9 institution” under section 322(2) of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

11 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
12 term “institution of higher education” has the
13 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
14 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1002).

15 (4) PELL GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term “Pell
16 Grant recipient” means a recipient of financial aid
17 under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.).

19 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Education.

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