

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6739

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of professional degree.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of professional degree.

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 “Clarity in Professional
5 Degree Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Department of Education modified the
9 definition of “professional degree” programs eligible
10 for Federal student aid programs under title IV of

1 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070
2 et seq.), removing many health, education, and grad-
3 uate credentials from the list of definitions at the
4 detriment of students with disabilities.

5 (2) This reclassification is part of a new stu-
6 dent loan policy and is expected to take effect on
7 July 1, 2026.

8 (3) Students in affected programs could now
9 lose their qualification for such Federal student aid
10 programs which experts fear would exacerbate work-
11 force shortages. These fields are the foundation of
12 the United States economy, ensuring that the Na-
13 tion remains safe, educated, and healthy.

14 **SEC. 3. PROFESSIONAL DEGREE DEFINED.**

15 Section 455(a)(4)(C) of the Higher Education Act of
16 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)(4)(C)) is amended—

17 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “, as defined
18 under section 668.2 of title 34, Code of Federal
19 Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment
20 of this paragraph),”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(iii) **PROFESSIONAL DEGREE.**—In
23 this paragraph, the term ‘professional de-
24 gree’ has the meaning given the term in
25 section 668.2 of title 34, Code of Federal

1 Regulations (as in effect on the date of en-
2 actment of this paragraph), except that
3 such term also includes the following de-
4 grees:

5 “(I) Nursing (A.D.N., R.N., or
6 B.S.N.).

7 “(II) Occupational Therapy
8 (M.O.T.).

9 “(III) Physical Therapy
10 (D.P.T.).

11 “(IV) Social Work (M.S.W.).

12 “(V) Accounting (MAcc).

13 “(VI) Architecture (M.Arch.).

14 “(VII) Special and Secondary
15 Education (M.Ed., M.S.Ed., or
16 M.A.T.).

17 “(VIII) Music Education (M.S.
18 or M.M.E.).

19 “(IX) World Languages (M.Ed.).

20 “(X) Public Health (M.P.H.).”.

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