

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7343

To amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to expand education and workforce training opportunities for youth who have experienced foster care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to expand education and workforce training opportunities for youth who have experienced foster care.

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 “Foster Youth Work-
5 force Opportunity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE**
7 **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH WHO**
8 **HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE.**

9 Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10 677) is amended—

1 (1) in each of subsections (a)(5) and (h)(2), by
2 striking “aged out of foster care” and inserting “ex-
3 perience foster care at age 14 or older”;

4 (2) in each of subsections (a)(6) and (i)(2), by
5 striking “16” and inserting “14”;

6 (3) in subsection (i)(3), by striking “in no event
7 may a youth participate in the program for more
8 than 5 years (whether or not consecutive)” and in-
9 serting “may not allow a youth to participate in the
10 program for more than 5 years (or, in the case of
11 a youth who was involved in a remedial education
12 activity referred to in paragraph (4)(B), for more
13 than 6 years), whether or not consecutive”;

14 (4) in subsection (i)(4)—

15 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
16 as follows:

17 “(A) may be available for the cost of at-
18 tendance—

19 “(i) at an institution of higher edu-
20 cation, as defined in section 102 of the
21 Higher Education Act of 1965, including a
22 community college or postsecondary voca-
23 tional institution; or

24 “(ii) at a short-term training program
25 that is eligible for the Workforce Pell pro-

1 gram under section 401(k), as described in
2 section 481(b)(3) of the Higher Education
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088(b)(3)), as
4 added by section 83002(b) of Public Law
5 119–21;”;

6 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
7 subparagraph (C); and

8 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A),
9 as so amended, the following:

10 “(B) may be available for costs—

11 “(i) associated with participation in
12 an apprenticeship program;

13 “(ii) to obtain a general equivalency
14 degree; or

15 “(iii) to receive remedial education;
16 and”;

17 (5) in subsection (i), by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(7) In this section, the term ‘remedial edu-
20 cation’ means education or skill training needed to
21 support obtaining a high school diploma or quali-
22 fying for postsecondary education, training, or an
23 apprenticeship that is—

1 “(A) not provided by the school district of
2 the student or another free local, State, or Fed-
3 eral program; and

4 “(B) is provided by an instructor with cre-
5 dentials relevant to the subject area of instruc-
6 tion, as determined by the State.”.

7 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
9 on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment
10 of this Act.

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