

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 3589

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 7, 2026

Mr. BANKS (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

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 “Respond, Innovate,  
5 Succeed, and Empower Act” or the “RISE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERFECTING AMENDMENT TO THE DEFINITION OF**  
2 **DISABILITY.**

3 Section 103(6) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
4 (20 U.S.C. 1003(6)) is amended by striking “section  
5 3(2)” and inserting “section 3”.

6 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO**  
7 **SUCCEED ONCE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE.**

8 Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
9 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the  
10 following:

11 “(30)(A) The institution will carry out the fol-  
12 lowing:

13 “(i) Adopt policies that make any of the  
14 following documentation submitted by an indi-  
15 vidual sufficient to establish that such indi-  
16 vidual is an individual with a disability:

17 “(I) Documentation that the indi-  
18 vidual has had an individualized education  
19 program (referred to in this paragraph as  
20 an ‘IEP’) in accordance with section  
21 614(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities  
22 Education Act, if the IEP for the student  
23 was utilized in high school.

24 “(II) Documentation describing serv-  
25 ices or accommodations provided to the in-  
26 dividual pursuant to section 504 of the Re-

1 habilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794)  
2 (referred to in this paragraph as a ‘Section  
3 504 plan’), if the Section 504 plan for the  
4 student was utilized in high school.

5 “(III) A plan or record of service for  
6 the individual from a private high school,  
7 a local educational agency, a State edu-  
8 cational agency, or an institution of higher  
9 education provided in accordance with the  
10 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
11 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

12 “(IV) A record or evaluation from a  
13 relevant licensed professional finding that  
14 the individual has a disability.

15 “(V) A plan or record of disability  
16 from another institution of higher edu-  
17 cation.

18 “(VI) Documentation of a disability  
19 due to service in the uniformed services, as  
20 defined in section 484C(a).

21 “(ii) Adopt policies that are transparent  
22 and explicit regarding information about the  
23 process by which the institution determines eli-  
24 gibility for accommodations.

1           “(iii) Disseminate such information to stu-  
 2           dents, parents, and faculty in an accessible for-  
 3           mat, including during any student orientation  
 4           and making such information readily available  
 5           on a public website of the institution.

6           “(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be con-  
 7           strued to preclude an institution from establishing  
 8           less burdensome criteria than that described in sub-  
 9           paragraph (A) to establish an individual as an indi-  
 10          vidual with a disability and therefore eligible for ac-  
 11          commodations.”.

12 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL**  
 13                   **CENTER FOR INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL**  
 14                   **SUPPORT FOR POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS**  
 15                   **WITH DISABILITIES.**

16          Section 777(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
 17 (20 U.S.C. 1140q(a)) is amended—

18           (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “From  
 19           amounts appropriated under section 778,” and in-  
 20           serting “From amounts appropriated under para-  
 21           graph (5),”; and

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

23           “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
 24          There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out

1 this subsection a total of \$10,000,000 for fiscal  
2 years 2027 through 2031.”.

3 **SEC. 5. INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON STUDENTS WITH**  
4 **DISABILITIES.**

5 Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
6 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)), as amended by section 3, is further  
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(31)(A) The institution will submit, for inclu-  
9 sion in the Integrated Postsecondary Education  
10 Data System (IPEDS) or any other Federal postsec-  
11 ondary institution data collection effort, key data re-  
12 lated to undergraduate students enrolled in the insti-  
13 tution who are formally registered as students with  
14 disabilities with the institution’s office of disability  
15 services (which, for purposes of this paragraph, in-  
16 cludes an equivalent office), including—

17 “(i) the total number of students reg-  
18 istered with the institution’s office of disability  
19 services;

20 “(ii) the number of students accessing or  
21 receiving accommodations, as voluntarily re-  
22 ported to the institution’s office of disability  
23 services;

24 “(iii) the percentage of undergraduate stu-  
25 dents enrolled in the institution who are reg-

1           istered with the institution’s office of disability  
2           services; and

3                   “(iv) the total number of undergraduate  
4           certificates or degrees awarded to students reg-  
5           istered with the institution’s office of disability  
6           services.

7                   “(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an in-  
8           stitution shall not be required to submit information  
9           under this paragraph if the number of such students  
10          would reveal personally identifiable information  
11          about an individual student.”.

12 **SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

13          None of the amendments made by this Act shall be  
14          construed to affect the meaning of the terms “reasonable  
15          accommodation” or “record of impairment” under the  
16          Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101  
17          et seq.) or the rights or remedies provided under such Act.

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