

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7980

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferment on the repayment of loans for borrowers who are victims of sexual violence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2022

Ms. DEAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferment on the repayment of loans for borrowers who are victims of sexual violence, and for other purposes.

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 “Student Loan
5 Deferment for Sexual Violence Survivors Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFERMENT FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

7 Section 455(f)(2) of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(f)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph
2 (C);

3 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
4 paragraph (D) and inserting “; or”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(E) not in excess of 3 years (for one or
7 more periods of not less than 6 months and not
8 more than 12 months) during which the bor-
9 rower ceases to carry at least one-half the nor-
10 mal full-time work load for the course of study
11 that the borrower is pursuing, as determined by
12 the eligible institution (as such term is defined
13 in section 435(a)) the borrower is attending, be-
14 ginning on the date on which the borrower re-
15 ports to the title IX coordinator (within the
16 meaning of section 106.8 of title 34, Code of
17 Federal Regulations, or successor regulations)
18 of such institution that the borrower is a victim
19 of sexual violence (which includes sexual as-
20 sault, dating violence, domestic violence, and
21 stalking, as such terms are defined in section
22 485(f)(6)(A)).”.

1 **SEC. 3. RETURN OF FUNDS WAIVER.**

2 Section 484B(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091b(b)(2)) is amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 “(F) WAIVERS OF GRANT ASSISTANCE AND
6 LOAN REPAYMENT BY STUDENTS WHO ARE VIC-
7 TIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.—In addition to the
8 waivers authorized by subparagraphs (D) and
9 (E), the Secretary may waive the amounts that
10 students are required to return under this sec-
11 tion with respect to any grant assistance (in-
12 cluding Federal Pell Grants) or loans made
13 under this title if the withdrawals on which the
14 returns are based are withdrawals by stu-
15 dents—

16 “(i) whose attendance was interrupted
17 due to being a victim of sexual violence
18 (within the meaning of section
19 455(f)(2)(E)); and

20 “(ii) in the case of students who, in
21 the absence of this subparagraph, would
22 have been required to return loans made
23 under this title, who are receiving a
24 deferment under section 455(f)(2)(E) on
25 such loans.”.

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