

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5926

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to adjust the period of eligibility for Federal Pell Grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Mr. GROTHMAN 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 adjust the period of eligibility for Federal Pell Grants, 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 “Pell Grant Moderniza-
5 tion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.**

7 (a) 10-SEMESTER PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY.—

8 (1) AWARD YEARS PRIOR TO AWARD YEAR 2023—
9 2024.—Section 401(c)(5) of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(c)(5)) is amended by

1 striking “12 semesters” both places it appears and
2 inserting “10 semesters”.

3 (2) AWARD YEAR 2023–2024 AND EACH SUC-
4 CEEDING AWARD YEAR.—Section 401(d)(5)(A) of
5 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1070a(c)(5)(A)), as amended by the FAFSA Sim-
7 plification Act (title VII of division FF of Public
8 Law 116–260), is further amended by striking “12
9 semesters” both places it appears and inserting “10
10 semesters”.

11 (b) FULL-TIME STUDENT.—Subparagraph (A) of
12 section 481(a)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
13 (20 U.S.C. 1088(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

14 “(2)(A) For the purpose of any program under
15 this title, the term academic year shall—

16 “(i) require—

17 “(I) a minimum of 30 weeks of in-
18 structional time for a course of study that
19 measures its program length in credit
20 hours; or

21 “(II) a minimum of 26 weeks of in-
22 structional time for a course of study that
23 measures its program length in clock
24 hours;

1 “(ii) require an undergraduate course of
2 study to contain an amount of instructional
3 time whereby a full-time student is expected to
4 complete at least—

5 “(I) 30 semester or trimester hours or
6 45 quarter credit hours in a course of
7 study that measures its program length in
8 credit hours; or

9 “(II) 1,125 clock hours in a course of
10 study that measures its program length in
11 clock hours;

12 “(iii) require an undergraduate course of
13 study to contain an amount of instructional
14 time whereby a $\frac{3}{4}$ -time student is expected to
15 complete at least—

16 “(I) 22 semester or trimester hours or
17 33 credit hours in a course of study that
18 measures its program length in credit
19 hours; or

20 “(II) 825 clock hours in a course of
21 study that measures its program length in
22 clock hours;

23 “(iv) require an undergraduate course of
24 study to contain an amount of instructional

1 time whereby a $\frac{1}{2}$ -time student is expected to
2 complete at least—

3 “(I) 14 semester or trimester hours or
4 21 credit hours in a course of study that
5 measures its program length in credit
6 hours; or

7 “(II) 525 clock hours in a course of
8 study that measures its program length in
9 clock hours; and

10 “(v) require an undergraduate course of
11 study to contain an amount of instructional
12 time whereby a less than $\frac{1}{2}$ -time student is ex-
13 pected to complete less than—

14 “(I) 14 semester or trimester hours or
15 21 credit hours in a course of study that
16 measures its program length in credit
17 hours; or

18 “(II) 525 clock hours in a course of
19 study that measures its program in clock
20 hours.”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 subsections (a)(1) and (b) shall take effect on July 1,
23 2022.

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