

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6537

To index the maximum value of Federal Pell Grants to inflation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To index the maximum value of Federal Pell Grants to inflation.

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 Sustain-
5 ability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) From 2009 through 2018, the maximum
9 discretionary Federal Pell Grants under section 401

1 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 stayed flat
2 while inflation was 17 percent.

3 (2) The value of Federal Pell Grants must keep
4 pace with students' costs in order to fulfill their mis-
5 sion of enabling lower-income students to attend col-
6 lege.

7 **SEC. 3. INDEXING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS TO INFLATION.**

8 (a) AWARD YEAR 2022–2023.—Section 401 of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is
10 amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “through
12 fiscal year 2017” and inserting “through fiscal year
13 2022”; and

14 (2) in subsection (b)(7)(C), by amending clause
15 (iii) to read as follows:

16 “(iii) SUBSEQUENT AWARD YEARS.—

17 “(I) AWARD YEARS 2018–2019
18 THROUGH 2021–2022.—For each of the
19 award years 2018–2019 through
20 2021–2022, the amount determined
21 under this subparagraph for purposes
22 of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be equal
23 to the amount determined under
24 clause (ii) for award year 2017–2018.

1 “(II) AWARD YEAR 2022–2023.—
2 For award year 2022–2023 and each
3 subsequent award year, the amount
4 determined under this subparagraph
5 for purposes of subparagraph (B)(iii)
6 shall be equal to—

7 “(aa)(AA) \$6,495 or the
8 total maximum Federal Pell
9 Grant for the preceding award
10 year (as determined under clause
11 (iv)(II)), whichever is greater, in-
12 creased by a percentage equal to
13 the annual adjustment percent-
14 age for the award year for which
15 the amount under this subpara-
16 graph is being determined; re-
17 duced by

18 “(BB) \$5,435 or the max-
19 imum Federal Pell Grant for
20 which a student was eligible for
21 the preceding award year, as
22 specified in the last enacted ap-
23 propriation Act applicable to that
24 year, whichever is greater; and

1 “(bb) rounded to the nearest
2 \$5.”.

3 (b) AWARD YEAR 2023–2024, AND EACH SUBSE-
4 QUENT AWARD YEAR.—Section 401(b) of the Higher
5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)), as amended
6 by section 703 of the FAFSA Simplification Act (division
7 FF of Public Law 116–260), is further amended—

8 (1) by amending paragraph (5) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(5) TOTAL MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL
11 GRANT.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For award year 2023–
13 2024, and each subsequent award year, the
14 total maximum Federal Pell Grant award per
15 student shall be equal to the sum of—

16 “(i) \$1,060, increased by a percentage
17 equal to the annual adjustment percentage
18 for the award year for which the amount
19 under this paragraph is being determined;
20 and

21 “(ii) the amount specified as the max-
22 imum Federal Pell Grant in the last en-
23 acted appropriation Act applicable to that
24 award year.

1 “(B) ROUNDING.—The total maximum
2 Federal Pell Grant for any award year shall be
3 rounded to the nearest \$5.

4 “(C) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT PERCENTAGE
5 DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘annual
6 adjustment percentage’, as applied to an award
7 year, is equal to the estimated percentage
8 change in the Consumer Price Index (as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary, using the definition in
10 section 478(f)) for the most recent calendar
11 year ending prior to the beginning of that
12 award year.”;

13 (2) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), by striking “each of
14 the fiscal years 2023 through 2033” and inserting
15 “fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year”;
16 and

17 (3) in paragraph (8)(A), by striking “through
18 fiscal year 2033”.

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