

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5016

To authorize the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Attorney General, to establish a pilot program to make grants to historically Black colleges and universities to provide educational programs to offenders who have recently been, or will soon be, released from incarceration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 13, 2021

Mr. HILL (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. TURNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Attorney General, to establish a pilot program to make grants to historically Black colleges and universities to provide educational programs to offenders who have recently been, or will soon be, released from incarceration, 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 “Shift Back to Society
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFENDER EDUCATION RE-ENTRY PILOT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Education,
4 in consultation with the Attorney General, shall establish
5 a pilot program for 5 years which awards grants to not
6 more than 10 historically Black colleges and universities
7 to provide educational programming to eligible offenders
8 in order to facilitate re-entry into the community.

9 (b) APPLICATION.—The chief executive officer of a
10 historically Black college or university seeking a grant
11 under this section shall submit to the Secretary of Edu-
12 cation an application at such time, in such manner, and
13 containing such information as the Secretary of Education
14 may reasonably require.

15 (c) MATCHING FUNDS.—The portion of the costs of
16 a program provided by a grant under subsection (a) may
17 not exceed 50 percent. The recipient of a grant under this
18 section may meet the matching requirement under this
19 subsection by making in-kind contributions of goods or
20 services that are directly related to the purpose for which
21 such grant was awarded.

22 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) The term “educational programming”, when
24 used with respect to a historically Black college or
25 university, means—

1 (A) general education development (GED)
 2 programming; or

3 (B) educational courses which are transfer-
 4 able for course credit at that historically Black
 5 college or university.

6 (2) The term “eligible offender” means an indi-
 7 vidual who was convicted of a criminal offense and—

8 (A) has been released from incarceration
 9 for not longer than one year; or

10 (B) is scheduled to be released from incar-
 11 ceration in not longer than one year.

12 (3) The term “historically Black college or uni-
 13 versity” has the meaning given the term “part B in-
 14 stitution” under section 322(2) of the Higher Edu-
 15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

16 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 18 \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year in which grants are award-
 19 ed under this section.

20 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.**

21 Not later than 270 days after the conclusion of the
 22 pilot program under section 2, the Comptroller General
 23 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report
 24 which describes the results of the pilot program.

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