

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2178

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 2000

Mr. LAUTENBERG introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, 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 “Fire Safe Dorm Act
5 of 2000”.

1 **TITLE I—OBLIGATIONS OF INSTI-**
2 **TUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-**
3 **CATION**

4 **SEC. 101. IMPROVED DISCLOSURE OF FIRES AND FIRE PRE-**
5 **VENTION MEASURES IN COLLEGE DOR-**
6 **MITORIES.**

7 Section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
8 (20 U.S.C. 1092(f)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
10 following new subparagraphs:

11 “(I) Statistics concerning the occurrence of
12 fires and fire alarms in dormitories on campus dur-
13 ing the most recent calendar year, and during the 5
14 preceding calendar years for which data are avail-
15 able.

16 “(J) A statement describing whether the insti-
17 tutions’ dormitory rooms currently have sprinklers,
18 smoke detectors, and furniture made of flame re-
19 tardant material.”;

20 (2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the
21 following new subparagraph:

22 “(C) Each institution participating in any program
23 under this title shall make, keep, and maintain a daily log,
24 written in a form that can be easily understood, recording
25 all fires reported to local fire departments, including the

1 nature, date, time, and general location of each fire. Such
 2 logs shall be open to public inspection.”; and

3 (3) in paragraph (5)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 5 (A), by inserting “or paragraph (1)(I)” after
 6 “paragraph (1)(F)”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
 8 “and campus fires” after “campus crime”.

9 **SEC. 102. DISCLOSURE OF PLANS TO BRING RESIDENTIAL**
 10 **FACILITIES INTO COMPLIANCE WITH NEW**
 11 **BUILDING CODES.**

12 Section 485(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of
 13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
 15 graph (N);

16 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
 17 paragraph (O) and inserting “; and”;

18 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 19 paragraph:

20 “(P) a summary of the specific plans that the
 21 institution has adopted for construction or renova-
 22 tion to ensure that all campus residential facilities
 23 comply, by January 1, 2010, with the standards es-
 24 tablished by the Administrator of the United States

1 Fire Administration under section 201 of the Fire
2 Safe Dorm Act of 2000.”.

3 **SEC. 103. COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS**
4 **FOR DORMITORIES.**

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

8 “(24) The institution will adopt, within 10
9 years after the date of enactment of the Fire Safe
10 Dorm Act of 2000, plans to install sprinklers, smoke
11 detectors, and open flame resistant furniture in dor-
12 mitories in compliance with the standards estab-
13 lished by the Administrator of the United States
14 Fire Administration under section 201 of such
15 Act.”.

16 **SEC. 104. EXEMPTION.**

17 The amendments made by this title shall not be con-
18 strued to require the installation of sprinklers in any
19 building or other structure that is listed on the National
20 Register for Historic Places as maintained by the National
21 Park Service under the authority of the National Historic
22 Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), if such installa-
23 tion would destroy historic materials, features, and spatial
24 relationships that characterize the historic nature of the
25 property. The Secretary of Education shall determine dis-

1 putes concerning the application of this exemption by ref-
2 erence of the matter to the Secretary of the Interior.

3 **TITLE II—DORMITORY FIRE**
4 **SAFETY STANDARDS**

5 **SEC. 201. STANDARDS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator
8 of the United States Fire Administration shall establish
9 measurable standards for dormitory fire safety. Such
10 standards shall include mandatory fire sprinklers, smoke
11 detectors, and open flame resistant furniture and mat-
12 tresses.

13 (b) OUTREACH.—The Administrator of the United
14 States Fire Administration shall undertake appropriate
15 activities to encourage the adoption by State and local au-
16 thorities of the standards established under subsection (a).

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