

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3408

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve college access through experiential education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 30, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CASE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. MAJETTE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. TIERNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve college access through experiential education.

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 “College and Job Op-
5 portunities for the Future Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Over 15 million students are enrolled in in-
2 stitutions of higher education.

3 (2) It is projected that the number of students
4 enrolling in higher education will increase by 20 per-
5 cent by the year 2011. At that time, more students
6 will be attending college than in any other time in
7 history.

8 (3) Of those students already enrolled in under-
9 graduate higher education, 55 percent receive some
10 type of student aid averaging \$6,265 per year, with
11 72 percent of full-time undergraduates receiving
12 some type of aid averaging \$8,580 per year.

13 (4) Average tuition at both public and private
14 four-year colleges and universities rose 38 percent
15 over the past ten years, while educational grants,
16 such as the Pell Grant, have essentially remained
17 stagnant.

18 (5) In 1974, the maximum Pell Grant of
19 \$1,050 covered 31 percent of tuition and fees at a
20 private, 4-year college and 60 percent at a public
21 school. Today, the \$4,050 maximum will cover only
22 17 percent of private college costs and 42 percent at
23 a public college.

1 (6) The average 4-year college graduate accu-
2 mulates over \$16,000 in debt, with monthly pay-
3 ments of almost \$200.

4 (7) The nations' unemployment rate has risen
5 to 6.4 percent, the highest level in 9 years, making
6 it increasingly difficult for college graduates to find
7 jobs.

8 (8) Cooperative education, a program that al-
9 lows students to work in paid, full- or part-time
10 jobs, most often for academic credit, offers college
11 students a number of resources to offset this admit-
12 tedly adverse climate.

13 (9) Salaries earned by students working on co-
14 operative education placements may be used to de-
15 fray education-related expenses, and reduce amounts
16 students may be required to borrow. In this way, co-
17 operative education addresses, in a very positive
18 fashion, the important issues of access and afford-
19 ability.

20 (10) Many, many studies have demonstrated
21 that students who participate in cooperative edu-
22 cation placements persist through to graduation in
23 greater numbers than those who have not.

24 (11) The skilled job training that cooperative
25 education students receive, coupled with their gen-

1 eral exposure to the world of work, makes students
2 more attractive to potential employers when they
3 enter the job market. In fact, approximately 80 per-
4 cent of co-op students are offered permanent posi-
5 tions by their cooperative education employer upon
6 graduation.

7 (12) There are a number of goals associated
8 with reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
9 These goals include improving access and afford-
10 ability, improving graduation rates, and improving
11 employment prospects for graduates. Cooperative
12 education assists students in all of these areas in a
13 very positive and cost effective fashion.

14 (13) Cooperative education is cost effective, in
15 that it represents a relatively modest expenditure of
16 Federal resources which provides students with ac-
17 cess to more substantial private resources.

18 **SEC. 3. REENACTMENT OF TITLE VIII: COOPERATIVE EDU-**
19 **CATION.**

20 The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101
21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following
22 title:

1 **“TITLE VIII—COOPERATIVE**
2 **EDUCATION**

3 **“SEC. 801. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE; DEFINITION.**

4 “(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this title to
5 award grants to institutions of higher education or com-
6 binations of such institutions to encourage such institu-
7 tions to develop and make available to as many of their
8 students as possible work experience that will aid such stu-
9 dents in future careers and will enable such students to
10 support themselves financially while in school.

11 “(b) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this title the
12 term ‘cooperative education’ means the provision of alter-
13 nating or parallel periods of academic study and public
14 or private employment in order to give students work expe-
15 riences related to their academic or occupational objectives
16 and an opportunity to earn the funds necessary for con-
17 tinuing and completing their education.

18 **“SEC. 802. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RES-**
19 **ERVATIONS.**

20 “(a) APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.—There are au-
21 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this title
22 \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and such sums as may
23 be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

24 “(b) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amount appropriated
25 in each fiscal year—

1 “(1) not less than 50 percent shall be available
2 for carrying out grants to institutions of higher edu-
3 cation and combinations of such institutions de-
4 scribed in section 803(a)(1)(A) for cooperative edu-
5 cation under section 803;

6 “(2) not less than 25 percent shall be available
7 for carrying out grants to institutions of higher edu-
8 cation described in section 803(a)(1)(B) for coopera-
9 tive education under section 803;

10 “(3) not to exceed 11 percent shall be available
11 for demonstration projects under paragraph (1) of
12 section 804(a);

13 “(4) not to exceed 11 percent shall be available
14 for training and resource centers under paragraph
15 (2) of section 804(a); and

16 “(5) not to exceed 3 percent shall be available
17 for research under paragraph (3) of section 804(a).

18 “(c) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Appro-
19 priations under this title shall not be available for the pay-
20 ment of compensation of students for employment by em-
21 ployers under arrangements pursuant to this title.

22 **“SEC. 803. GRANTS FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION.**

23 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is author-
25 ized—

1 “(A) from the amount available under sec-
2 tion 802(b)(1) in each fiscal year and in accord-
3 ance with the provisions of this title, to make
4 grants to institutions of higher education or
5 combinations of such institutions that have not
6 received a grant under this paragraph in the
7 10-year period preceding the date for which a
8 grant under this section is requested to pay the
9 Federal share of the cost of planning, estab-
10 lishing, expanding, or carrying out programs of
11 cooperative education by such institutions or
12 combinations of institutions; and

13 “(B) from the amount available under sec-
14 tion 802(b)(2) in each fiscal year and in accord-
15 ance with the provisions of this title, to make
16 grants to institutions of higher education that
17 are operating an existing cooperative education
18 program as determined by the Secretary to pay
19 the cost of planning, establishing, expanding, or
20 carrying out programs of cooperative education
21 by such institutions.

22 “(2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENT.—Cooperative
23 education programs assisted under this section shall
24 provide alternating or parallel periods of academic
25 study and of public or private employment, giving

1 students work experience related to their academic
2 or occupational objectives and the opportunity to
3 earn the funds necessary for continuing and com-
4 pleting their education.

5 “(3) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—

6 “(A) The amount of each grant awarded
7 pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) to any institution
8 of higher education or combination of such in-
9 stitutions in any fiscal year shall not exceed
10 \$500,000.

11 “(B) (i) Except as provided in clauses (ii)
12 and (iii), the Secretary shall award grants in
13 each fiscal year to each institution of higher
14 education described in paragraph (1)(B) that
15 has an application approved under subsection
16 (b) in an amount which bears the same ratio to
17 the amount reserved pursuant to section
18 802(b)(2) for such fiscal year as the number of
19 unduplicated students placed in cooperative
20 education jobs during the preceding fiscal year
21 (other than cooperative education jobs under
22 section 804 and as determined by the Sec-
23 retary) by such institution of higher education
24 bears to the total number of all such students

1 placed in such jobs during the preceding fiscal
2 year by all such institutions.

3 “(ii) No institution of higher education
4 shall receive a grant pursuant to paragraph
5 (1)(B) in any fiscal year in an amount which
6 exceeds 25 percent of such institution’s cooper-
7 ative education program’s personnel and oper-
8 ating budget for the preceding fiscal year.

9 “(iii) The minimum annual grant amount
10 which an institution of higher education is eligi-
11 ble to receive under paragraph (1)(B) is \$1,000
12 and the maximum annual grant amount is
13 \$75,000.

14 “(4) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not
15 award grants pursuant to paragraphs (1)(A) and
16 (1)(B) to the same institution of higher education or
17 combination of such institution in any one fiscal
18 year.

19 “(5) USES.—Grants under paragraph (1)(B)
20 shall be used exclusively—

21 “(A) to expand the quality and participa-
22 tion of a cooperative education program;

23 “(B) for outreach in new curricular areas;
24 and

1 “(C) for outreach to potential participants
2 including underrepresented and nontraditional
3 populations.

4 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—Each institution of higher edu-
5 cation or combination of such institutions desiring to re-
6 ceive a grant under this section shall submit an application
7 to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the
8 Secretary shall prescribe. Each such application shall—

9 “(1) set forth the program or activities for
10 which a grant is authorized under this section;

11 “(2) specify each portion of such program or
12 activities which will be performed by a nonprofit or-
13 ganization or institution other than the applicant
14 and the compensation to be paid for such perform-
15 ance;

16 “(3) provide that the applicant will expend dur-
17 ing such fiscal year for the purpose of such program
18 or activities not less than the amount expended for
19 such purpose during the previous fiscal year;

20 “(4) describe the plans which the applicant will
21 carry out to assure, and contain a formal statement
22 of the institution’s commitment which assures, that
23 the applicant will continue the cooperative education
24 program beyond the 5-year period of Federal assist-
25 ance described in subsection (c)(1) at a level which

1 is not less than the total amount expended for such
2 program during the first year such program was as-
3 sisted under this section;

4 “(5) provide that, in the case of an institution
5 of higher education that provides a 2-year program
6 which is acceptable for full credit toward a bach-
7 elor’s degree, the cooperative education program will
8 be available to students who are certificate or asso-
9 ciate degree candidates and who carry at least one-
10 half the normal full-time academic workload;

11 “(6) provide that the applicant will—

12 “(A) make such reports as may be essen-
13 tial to ensure that the applicant is complying
14 with the provisions of this section, including the
15 reports for the second and each succeeding fis-
16 cal year for which the applicant receives a grant
17 with respect to the impact of the cooperative
18 education program in the previous fiscal year,
19 including—

20 “(i) the number of unduplicated stu-
21 dent applicants in the cooperative edu-
22 cation program;

23 “(ii) the number of unduplicated stu-
24 dents placed in cooperative education jobs;

1 “(iii) the number of employers who
2 have hired cooperative education students;

3 “(iv) the income for students derived
4 from working in cooperative education
5 jobs; and

6 “(v) the increase or decrease in the
7 number of unduplicated students placed in
8 cooperative education jobs in each fiscal
9 year compared to the previous fiscal year;
10 and

11 “(B) keep such records as are essential to
12 ensure that the applicant is complying with the
13 provisions of this title, including the notation of
14 cooperative education employment on the stu-
15 dent’s transcript;

16 “(7) describe the extent to which programs in
17 the academic discipline for which the application is
18 made have had a favorable reception by public and
19 private sector employers;

20 “(8) describe the extent to which the institution
21 is committed to extending cooperative education on
22 an institution-wide basis for all students who can
23 benefit;

1 “(9) describe the plans that the applicant will
2 carry out to evaluate the applicant’s cooperative edu-
3 cation program at the end of the grant period;

4 “(10) provide for such fiscal control and fund
5 accounting procedures as may be necessary to assure
6 proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal
7 funds paid to the applicant under this title;

8 “(11) demonstrate a commitment to serving all
9 underserved populations; and

10 “(12) include such other information as is es-
11 sential to carry out the provisions of this title.

12 “(c) DURATION OF GRANTS; FEDERAL SHARE.—

13 “(1) DURATION OF GRANTS.—No individual in-
14 stitution of higher education may receive, individ-
15 ually or as a participant in a combination of such in-
16 stitutions—

17 “(A) a grant pursuant to subsection
18 (a)(1)(A) for more than 5 fiscal years; or

19 “(B) a grant pursuant to subsection
20 (a)(1)(B) for more than 5 fiscal years.

21 “(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a
22 grant under section 803(a)(1)(A) may not exceed—

23 “(A) 85 percent of the cost of carrying out
24 the program or activities described in the appli-

1 cation in the first year the applicant receives a
2 grant under this section;

3 “(B) 70 percent of such cost in the second
4 such year;

5 “(C) 55 percent of such cost in the third
6 such year;

7 “(D) 40 percent of such cost in the fourth
8 such year; and

9 “(E) 25 percent of such cost in the fifth
10 such year.

11 “(3) SPECIAL RULE.—Any provision of law to
12 the contrary notwithstanding, the Secretary shall not
13 waive the provisions of this subsection.

14 “(d) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—If the Secretary
15 determines that a recipient of funds under this section has
16 failed to maintain the fiscal effort described in subsection
17 (b)(3), then the Secretary may elect not to make grant
18 payments under this section to such recipient.

19 “(e) FACTORS FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF AP-
20 PPLICATIONS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In approving applications
22 under this section, the Secretary shall give special
23 consideration to applications from institutions of
24 higher education or combinations of such institu-

1 tions for programs which show the greatest promise
2 of success because of—

3 “(A) the extent to which programs in the
4 academic discipline with respect to which the
5 application is made have had a favorable recep-
6 tion by public and private sector employers;

7 “(B) the strength of the commitment of
8 the institution of higher education or combina-
9 tion of such institutions to cooperative edu-
10 cation as demonstrated by the plans and for-
11 malized institutional commitment statement
12 which such institution or combination has made
13 to continue the program after the termination
14 of Federal financial assistance,

15 “(C) the extent to which the institution or
16 combination is committed to extending coopera-
17 tive education for all students who can benefit,
18 and

19 “(D) such other factors as are consistent
20 with the purposes of this section.

21 “(2) ADDITIONAL SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—

22 The Secretary shall also give special consideration to
23 applications from institutions of higher education or
24 combinations of such institutions which demonstrate

1 a commitment to serving all underserved popu-
2 lations.

3 **“SEC. 804. DEMONSTRATION AND INNOVATION PROJECTS;**
4 **TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTERS; AND RE-**
5 **SEARCH.**

6 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized,
7 in accordance with the provisions of this section, to make
8 grants and enter into contracts for—

9 “(1) the conduct of demonstration projects de-
10 signed to demonstrate or determine the feasibility or
11 value of innovative methods of cooperative education
12 from the amounts available in each fiscal year under
13 section 802(b)(3);

14 “(2) the conduct of training and resource cen-
15 ters designed to—

16 “(A) train personnel in the field of cooper-
17 ative education;

18 “(B) improve materials used in cooperative
19 education programs if such improvement is con-
20 ducted in conjunction with other activities de-
21 scribed in this paragraph;

22 “(C) furnish technical assistance to institu-
23 tions of higher education to increase the poten-
24 tial of the institution to continue to conduct a

1 cooperative education program without Federal
2 assistance;

3 “(D) encourage model cooperative edu-
4 cation programs which furnish education and
5 training in occupations in which there is a na-
6 tional need;

7 “(E) support partnerships under which an
8 institution carrying out a comprehensive cooper-
9 ative education program joins with one or more
10 institutions of higher education in order to (i)
11 assist the institution other than the comprehen-
12 sive cooperative education institution to develop
13 and expand an existing program of cooperative
14 education, or (ii) establish and improve or ex-
15 pand comprehensive cooperative education pro-
16 grams; and

17 “(F) encourage model cooperative edu-
18 cation programs in the fields of science and
19 mathematics for women and minorities who are
20 underrepresented in such fields

21 from the amounts available in each fiscal year under
22 section 802(b)(4); and

23 “(3) the conduct of research relating to cooper-
24 ative education, from the amounts available in each
25 fiscal year under section 802(b)(5).

1 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,
3 the Secretary may—

4 “(A) make grants to or contracts with in-
5 stitutions of higher education, or combinations
6 of such institutions; and

7 “(B) make grants to or contracts with
8 other public or private nonprofit agencies or or-
9 ganizations, whenever such grants or contracts
10 will make an especially significant contribution
11 to attaining the objectives of this section.

12 “(2) LIMITATION.—

13 “(A) The Secretary may not use more than
14 3 percent of the amount appropriated to carry
15 out this section in each fiscal year to enter into
16 contracts described in paragraph (1)(A).

17 “(B) The Secretary may use not more
18 than 3 percent of the amount appropriated to
19 carry out this section in each fiscal year to
20 enter into contracts described in paragraph
21 (1)(B).

22 “(c) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—A recipient of
23 a grant or contract under this section may use the funds
24 provided only so as to supplement and, to the extent pos-
25 sible, increase the level of funds that would, in the absence

1 of such funds, be made available from non-Federal sources
2 to carry out the activities supported by such grant or con-
3 tract, and in no case to supplant such funds from non-
4 Federal sources.”.

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