

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2143

To increase the number of students from low-income backgrounds who are enrolled in studies leading to baccalaureate degrees in science, mathematics, technology, engineering, and critical foreign languages, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2005

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

A BILL

To increase the number of students from low-income backgrounds who are enrolled in studies leading to baccalaureate degrees in science, mathematics, technology, engineering, and critical foreign languages, 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 “National Science and
5 Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SMART GRANTS.**

2 Subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-
3 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is amended by add-
4 ing after section 401 the following:

5 **“SEC. 401A. NATIONAL SMART GRANTS.**

6 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to in-
7 crease the number of postsecondary students from low-in-
8 come backgrounds who are enrolled in studies leading to
9 baccalaureate degrees in physical, life, and computer
10 sciences, mathematics, technology, engineering, and for-
11 eign languages critical to national security.

12 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall
13 award grants, in the amount specified in subsection (e),
14 to eligible students to assist the eligible students in paying
15 their college education expenses.

16 “(c) DESIGNATION.—A grant under this section shall
17 be known as a ‘National Science and Mathematics Access
18 to Retain Talent Grant’ or a ‘National SMART Grant’.

19 “(d) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—In this
20 section, the term ‘eligible student’ means a full-time stu-
21 dent who, for the academic year for which the determina-
22 tion of eligibility is made—

23 “(1) is a citizen of the United States;

24 “(2) is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant;

25 “(3) is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in
26 the third or fourth academic year of a program of

1 undergraduate education at a 4-year degree-granting
2 institution of higher education;

3 “(4) is pursuing a major in—

4 “(A) the physical, life, or computer
5 sciences, mathematics, technology, or engineer-
6 ing (as determined by the Secretary pursuant
7 to regulations); or

8 “(B) a foreign language that the Sec-
9 retary, in consultation with the Director of Na-
10 tional Intelligence, determines is critical to the
11 national security of the United States; and

12 “(5) has obtained a cumulative grade point av-
13 erage of at least 3.0 (or the equivalent as deter-
14 mined under regulations prescribed by the Sec-
15 retary) in the coursework required for the major de-
16 scribed in paragraph (4).

17 “(e) GRANT AWARD.—

18 “(1) AMOUNTS.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and
19 (3), the Secretary shall award a grant under this
20 section to an eligible student in the amount of
21 \$4,000.

22 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—Notwithstanding para-
23 graph (1)—

24 “(A) the amount of a grant under this sec-
25 tion, in combination with the Federal Pell

1 Grant assistance and other student financial as-
2 sistance available to the eligible student, shall
3 not exceed the student's cost of attendance;

4 “(B) if the amount made available under
5 subsection (f) for any fiscal year is less than
6 the amount required to provide grants to all eli-
7 gible students in the amounts determined under
8 paragraph (1) (subject to subparagraph (A)),
9 then the amount of the grant to each eligible
10 student shall be ratably reduced; and

11 “(C) if additional amounts are appro-
12 priated for a fiscal year described in subpara-
13 graph (B), such reduced grant amounts shall be
14 increased on the same basis as they were re-
15 duced.

16 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary shall not
17 award a grant under this section—

18 “(A) to any eligible student for an aca-
19 demic year of a program of undergraduate edu-
20 cation for which the student received credit be-
21 fore the date of enactment of the National
22 Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Tal-
23 ent Act; or

24 “(B) to any eligible student for more than
25 2 academic years.

1 “(f) FUNDING.—

2 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

3 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
4 this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2006 and each of the succeeding 4 fiscal years.

6 “(2) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If, at the end of
7 a fiscal year, the funds available for awarding grants
8 under this section exceed the amount necessary to
9 make such grants in the amounts authorized by sub-
10 section (e), then all of the excess funds shall remain
11 available for awarding grants under this section dur-
12 ing the subsequent fiscal year.

13 “(g) SUNSET PROVISION.—The authority to make
14 grants under this section shall expire at the end of the
15 academic year 2009–2010.”.

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