

PERMITTING CONTINUED GRANT PARTICIPATION BY HISTORICALLY BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

MARCH 28, 1996.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GOODLING, from the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3055]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3055) to amend section 326 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit continued participation by Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools in the grant program authorized by that section, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 3055 is to amend Section 326 of Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to permit continued participation by certain Historically Black Graduate and Professional Schools in the grant program authorized under this section.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

H.R. 3055 was introduced by Mr. Norwood on March 7, 1996. On March 14, 1996, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities assembled to consider H.R. 3055. The Committee adopted the bill by a voice vote.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION/COMMITTEE VIEWS

Section 326 of Title III of the Higher Education Act was established to provide grants to Historically Black Graduate and Profes-

sional Schools. In order for an institution to receive grant funds under this section, the Secretary of Education must first make a determination that such institution is making a substantial contribution to the legal, medical, dental, veterinary or other graduate education opportunities for African-Americans.

Grant funds received under this section may be used for building or updating facilities such as libraries, laboratories, and classrooms, including the acquisition of telecommunications technology and equipment; faculty development and exchange programs; the purchase of laboratory and library supplies; tutoring, counseling and student services; establishment of community outreach programs to elementary and secondary students; and establishment or improvement of teacher education programs.

Eligibility for grant funds under Section 326 was originally limited to five institutions. In 1992, the list of eligible institutions was expanded and eleven additional Historically Black Graduate and Professional Schools became eligible for grant funds under this section.

The first \$12 million appropriated for this section is reserved for the five original institutions who have received funding under Section 326 since its inception. These schools are: Morehouse School of Medicine, Meharry Medical School, Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School, Clark-Atlanta University, and Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. However, these schools, like all of the other eligible institutions, are restricted to two five-year grants. All five schools will complete their second grant in fiscal year 1996. Without this amendment to the statute, they will no longer be eligible for future grant funds.

Many of the graduate and professional programs at the five institutions in danger of losing eligibility are medical programs and the graduates of these programs make large contributions to the health of minorities and disadvantaged individuals across the country, and particularly those living in urban areas. Serving these two populations is one of the major challenges currently facing our health care system. The number of African-Americans enrolled in medical programs is very low. Currently, only 2 percent of the enrollment in entering classes in veterinary medicine and 6 percent in medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy are African Americans. The Historically Black Colleges and Universities participating in Title III graduate 50 percent of African-American physicians, dentists, and pharmacists, as well as 75 percent of African-American veterinarians in this country.

It is the committee's finding that the survival of these schools contributes to the improved health status of disadvantaged persons, as well as all Americans. Because of the significant contributions of these five institutions and their graduates, it is important that they continue to be eligible for the grant support necessary to continue providing top quality education to their students.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3055 strikes the sentence in Section 326 that restricts schools to two five-year grants, thereby allowing the five schools currently in the final year of their grant eligibility to continue to

compete for future grant funds, if made available through the appropriations process.

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Section 1 contains findings related to the bill.

Section 2 strikes the second sentence of Section 326(b) of Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 2(l)(3)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that the enactment into law of H.R. 3055 will have no significant inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy. It is the judgment of the Committee that the inflationary impact of this legislation as a component of the federal budget is negligible.

GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 3055.

COMMITTEE ESTIMATE

Clause 7 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 3055. However, clause 7(d) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

APPLICATION OF LAW TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 102(b)(3) of Public Law 104-1 requires a description of the application of this bill to the legislative branch. This bill permits continued participation by certain Historically Black Graduate and Professional Schools in the grant program authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965. The bill does not prohibit legislative branch employees from otherwise being eligible for such services under these grants.

UNFUNDED MANDATE STATEMENT

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires a statement of whether the provisions of the reported bill include unfunded mandates; the bill provides funds for programs authorized under this bill at the local level and as such does not contain any unfunded mandates. The Committee also received a letter regarding unfunded mandates from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office. See *infra*.

BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 3055 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 22, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM F. GOODLING,
*Chairman, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has reviewed H.R. 3055, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit certain historically black graduate and professional schools to continue to apply for Section 326 general purpose grants. The bill was ordered reported by the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities on March 14, 1996. Currently, the Secretary of Education is limited to awarding no more than two Section 326 grants per school for a maximum duration of five years each. As a result of this change, the Secretary of Education would have more flexibility in allocating available Section 326 funds among the sixteen designated historically black graduate and professional schools.

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 3055 would have no effect on the overall federal budget. Because enactment of H.R. 3055 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in P.L. 104-4 and would have no direct impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. Furthermore, this bill would not impose an unfunded mandate on the private sector.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Kalcevic.

Sincerely,

JAMES. L. BLUM
(For June E. O'Neill, Director).

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 326 OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

SEC. 326. PROFESSIONAL OR GRADUATE INSTITUTIONS.

(a) * * *

(b) DURATION.—Grants shall be made for a period not to exceed 5 years. [No more than two 5-year grants (for a period of not more than 10 years) may be made to any one undergraduate or post-graduate institution.]

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