

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1949, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1949

To direct the Secretary of Education to convene the Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data to conduct a study on improvements to postsecondary education transparency at the Federal level.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2013

Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. PETRI, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BUCSHON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to convene the Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data to conduct a study on improvements to postsecondary education transparency at the Federal level.

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 “Improving Postsec-
5 ondary Education Data for Students Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON IMPROVEMENTS TO POSTSECONDARY**
2 **EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY AT THE FED-**
3 **ERAL LEVEL.**

4 (a) **FORMATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IM-**
5 **PROVING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION DATA.—**

6 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
8 Education shall convene the Advisory Committee on
9 Improving Postsecondary Education Data (in this
10 Act referred to as the “Advisory Committee”), which
11 shall be comprised of 15 members who represent
12 economically, racially, and geographically diverse
13 populations appointed by the Secretary in consulta-
14 tion with the Commissioner for Education Statistics,
15 including—

16 (A) individuals representing different sec-
17 tors of institutions of higher education, includ-
18 ing individuals representing undergraduate and
19 graduate education;

20 (B) experts in the field of higher education
21 policy;

22 (C) State officials;

23 (D) students and other stakeholders from
24 the higher education community;

25 (E) representatives from the business com-
26 munity;

1 (F) experts in choice in consumer markets;

2 (G) privacy experts;

3 (H) college and career counselors at sec-
4 ondary schools;

5 (I) experts in data policy, collection, and
6 use; and

7 (J) experts in labor markets.

8 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall ap-
9 point the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

10 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Advisory Committee
11 shall conduct a study examining—

12 (1) the types of information, including informa-
13 tion related to costs of postsecondary education,
14 sources of financial assistance (including Federal
15 student loans), student outcomes, and
16 postgraduation earnings, the Federal Government
17 should collect and report on institutions of higher
18 education to assist students and families in their
19 search for an institution of higher education;

20 (2) how such information should be collected
21 and reported, including how to disaggregate infor-
22 mation on student outcomes by subgroups of stu-
23 dents, such as full-time students, part-time students,
24 nontraditional students, first generation college stu-
25 dents, students who are veterans, and Federal Pell

1 Grant recipients under subpart 1 of part A of title
2 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
3 1070a); and

4 (3) the ways in which the Federal Government
5 may make such information more readily available
6 to—

7 (A) students and their families in a format
8 that is easily accessible and understandable,
9 and will aid students and their families in mak-
10 ing decisions; and

11 (B) States, local governments, secondary
12 schools, individual or groups of institutions of
13 higher education, and private-sector entities.

14 (c) SCOPE OF STUDY.—In conducting the study
15 under this Act, the Advisory Committee shall, at a min-
16 imum, examine—

17 (1) whether the current Federal transparency
18 initiatives on postsecondary education—

19 (A) are reporting consistent information
20 about individual institutions of higher education
21 across Federal agencies; and

22 (B) are similar to transparency initiatives
23 on postsecondary education carried out by
24 States, individual or groups of institutions of
25 higher education, or private-sector entities;

1 (2) whether—

2 (A) the collection and reporting of
3 postgraduation earnings by the Federal Govern-
4 ment is feasible, and if feasible, the options for
5 collecting and reporting such information;

6 (B) collecting and reporting such informa-
7 tion would improve the use of Federal trans-
8 parency initiatives and ease decisionmaking for
9 students and their families; and

10 (C) collecting and reporting such informa-
11 tion would have an impact on student privacy,
12 and if so, how such impact may be minimized;

13 (3) whether any other information, including in-
14 formation relating to student outcomes or identified
15 under the review required under subsection (d),
16 should be collected and reported by the Federal Gov-
17 ernment to improve the utility of such initiatives for
18 students and their families, and if so, how such in-
19 formation may be collected and reported, including
20 whether the information should be disaggregated by
21 subgroups of students;

22 (4) whether any information currently collected
23 and reported by the Federal Government on institu-
24 tions of higher education is not useful for students

1 and their families and should not be so collected and
2 reported;

3 (5) the manner in which the information from
4 Federal transparency initiatives is made available to
5 students and their families, and whether format
6 changes may help the information become more eas-
7 ily understood and widely utilized by students and
8 their families;

9 (6) any activities being carried out by the Fed-
10 eral Government, States, individual or groups of in-
11 stitutions of higher education, or private-sector enti-
12 ties to help inform students and their families of the
13 availability of Federal transparency initiatives;

14 (7) the cost to institutions of higher education
15 of reporting to the Federal Government the informa-
16 tion that is being collected and reported through
17 Federal transparency initiatives, and how such cost
18 may be minimized; and

19 (8) the relevant research described in sub-
20 section (d).

21 (d) REVIEW OF RELEVANT RESEARCH.—In con-
22 ducting the study under this Act, the Advisory Committee
23 shall review and consider—

24 (1) research and studies, if any, that have been
25 conducted to determine questions most frequently

1 asked by students and families to help inform their
2 search for an institution of higher education;

3 (2) the types of information students seek be-
4 fore enrolling in an institution of higher education;

5 (3) whether the availability to students and
6 their families of additional information on institu-
7 tions of higher education will be beneficial or con-
8 fusing;

9 (4) results, if any, that are available from con-
10 sumer testing of Federal, State, institution of higher
11 education, and private-sector transparency initiatives
12 on postsecondary education that have been made
13 publicly available on or after the date that is 10
14 years before the date of enactment of this Act; and

15 (5) any gaps in the research, studies, and re-
16 sults described in paragraphs (1) and (4) relating to
17 the types of information students seek before enroll-
18 ing in an institution of higher education.

19 (e) CONSULTATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study
21 under this Act, the Advisory Committee shall—

22 (A) hold public hearings to consult with
23 parents and students; and

24 (B) consult with a broad range of inter-
25 ested parties in higher education, including ap-

1 appropriate researchers, representatives of sec-
2 ondary schools (including college and career
3 counselors) and institutions of higher education
4 from different sectors of such institutions (in-
5 cluding undergraduate and graduate education),
6 State administrators, and Federal officials.

7 (2) CONSULTATION WITH THE AUTHORIZING
8 COMMITTEES.—The Advisory Committee shall con-
9 sult on a regular basis with the authorizing commit-
10 tees in conducting the study under this Act.

11 (f) REPORTS TO AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.—

12 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 180
13 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
14 visory Committee shall prepare and submit to the
15 authorizing committees and the Secretary an interim
16 report describing the progress made in conducting
17 the study under this Act and any preliminary find-
18 ings on the topics identified under subsection (c).

19 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
22 visory Committee shall prepare and submit to
23 the authorizing committees and the Secretary a
24 final report on the study, including—

1 (i) recommendations for legislative,
2 regulatory, and administrative actions
3 based on findings related to the topics
4 identified under subsection (c); and

5 (ii) a summary of the research de-
6 scribed in subsection (d).

7 (B) CONSULTATION WITH NCES.—The
8 Advisory Committee shall consult with the Com-
9 missioner of Education Statistics prior to mak-
10 ing recommendations under subparagraph
11 (A)(i) with respect to improving the information
12 being collected and reported by the Federal
13 Government on institutions of higher education.

14 (g) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The amount nec-
15 essary to conduct the study under this Act shall be made
16 available from amounts available to the Secretary for ad-
17 ministrative expenses of the Department of Education.

18 (h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

19 (1) AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.—The term
20 “authorizing committees” has the meaning given the
21 term in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of
22 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

23 (2) FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—
24 The term “first generation college student” has the
25 meaning given the term in section 402A(h) of the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–
2 11(h)).

3 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
4 term “institution of higher education” has the
5 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), except
7 that such term does not include institutions de-
8 scribed in subsection (a)(1)(C) of such section 102.

9 (4) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
10 ondary school” has the meaning given the term in
11 section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
12 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

13 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of Education.

15 (6) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
16 ing given the term in section 103 of the Higher
17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

18 (7) STUDENT.—The term “student” includes—

19 (A) a prospective student;

20 (B) a student enrolled in an institution of
21 higher education;

22 (C) a nontraditional student (as defined in
23 section 803(j)(2) of the Higher Education Act
24 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161e(j)(2))); and

1 (D) a veteran (as defined in section
2 480(c)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C.
3 1087vv(c)(1))) who is a student or prospective
4 student.