

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 6585, with an Amendment

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

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6585

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. DESAULNIER) 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 extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs.

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; EFFECTIVE DATE; REFERENCES.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act”.

6 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.**—The amend-
7 ments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.

1 1001 et seq.) made by this Act shall take effect on July
2 2, 2024, and shall apply with respect to award year 2025–
3 2026 and each succeeding award year.

4 (c) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly
5 provided, whenever in this Act an amendment, repeal, or
6 reference is expressed in terms of an amendment to, repeal
7 of, or reference to, a section or other provision, the amend-
8 ment, repeal, or reference shall be considered to be made
9 to a section or other provision of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

11 **SEC. 2. WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS.**

12 Section 401 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is amended by adding
13 at the end the following:

14 “(k) WORKFORCE PELL GRANT PROGRAM.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the award year begin-
16 ning on July 1, 2025, and each subsequent award
17 year, the Secretary shall award grants (to be known
18 as ‘Workforce Pell Grants’) to eligible students
19 under paragraph (2) in accordance with this sub-
20 section.

21 “(2) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—To be eligible to
22 receive a Workforce Pell Grant under this subsection
23 for any period of enrollment, a student shall meet
24 the eligibility requirements for a Federal Pell Grant
25 under this section, except that the student—

1 “(A) shall be enrolled, or accepted for en-
2 rollment, in an eligible program under section
3 481(b)(3) (hereinafter referred to as an ‘eligible
4 workforce program’); and

5 “(B) may not—

6 “(i) be enrolled, or accepted for enroll-
7 ment, in a program of study that leads to
8 a master’s degree, doctoral degree, or other
9 post-graduate degree; or

10 “(ii) have attained such a degree.

11 “(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDS.—

12 The Secretary shall award Workforce Pell Grants
13 under this subsection in the same manner and with
14 the same terms and conditions as the Secretary
15 awards Federal Pell Grants under this section, ex-
16 cept that—

17 “(A) each use of the term ‘eligible pro-
18 gram’ shall be substituted by ‘eligible workforce
19 program under section 481(b)(3)’, other than
20 with respect to—

21 “(i) paragraph (9)(A) of such sub-
22 section; and

23 “(ii) subsection (d)(2); and

24 “(B) a student who is eligible for a grant
25 equal to less than the amount of the minimum

1 Federal Pell Grant because the eligible work-
2 force program in which the student is enrolled
3 or accepted for enrollment is less than an aca-
4 demic year (in hours of instruction or weeks of
5 duration) may still be eligible for a Workforce
6 Pell Grant in an amount that is prorated based
7 on the length of the program.

8 “(4) PREVENTION OF DOUBLE BENEFITS.—No
9 eligible student described in paragraph (2) may con-
10 currently receive a grant under both this subsection
11 and—

12 “(A) subsection (b); or

13 “(B) subsection (c).

14 “(5) DURATION LIMIT.—Any period of study
15 covered by a Workforce Pell Grant awarded under
16 this subsection shall be included in determining a
17 student’s duration limit under subsection (d)(5).”.

18 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY FOR WORKFORCE PELL**
19 **GRANTS.**

20 Section 481(b) (20 U.S.C. 1088(b)) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as
22 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

23 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(3)(A) A program is an eligible program for
2 purposes of the Workforce Pell Grant program
3 under section 401(k) only if—

4 “(i) it is a program of at least 150
5 clock hours of instruction, but less than
6 600 clock hours of instruction, or an equiv-
7 alent number of credit hours, offered dur-
8 ing a minimum of 8 weeks, but less than
9 15 weeks;

10 “(ii) it is not offered as a correspond-
11 ence course, as defined in 600.2 of title 34,
12 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect
13 on September 20, 2020);

14 “(iii) the State board makes a deter-
15 mination that the program—

16 “(I) provides an education
17 aligned with the requirements of high-
18 skill, high-wage (as identified by the
19 State pursuant to section 122 of the
20 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
21 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 2342)), or
22 in-demand industry sectors or occupa-
23 tions;

24 “(II) meets the hiring require-
25 ments of potential employers in the

1 sectors or occupations described in
2 subclause (I); and

3 “(III) satisfies any applicable
4 educational prerequisite requirement
5 for professional licensure or certifi-
6 cation in the State or States in which
7 the program is offered, as applicable,
8 such that a student who completes the
9 program is qualified to—

10 “(aa) practice or find em-
11 ployment in the sectors or occu-
12 pations described in subclause
13 (I); and

14 “(bb) as applicable, take any
15 licensure or certification exami-
16 nations required to practice or
17 find employment in such sectors
18 or occupations;

19 “(iv) after the State board makes the
20 determination that the program meets the
21 requirements under clause (iii), the accred-
22 iting agency or association recognized by
23 the Secretary pursuant to section 496(a)
24 determines that the program—

25 “(I) either—

1 “(aa) leads to a recognized
2 postsecondary credential that is
3 stackable and portable across
4 more than one employer; or

5 “(bb) with respect to stu-
6 dents enrolled in the program—

7 “(AA) prepares such
8 students for employment in
9 an occupation for which
10 there is only one recognized
11 postsecondary credential;
12 and

13 “(BB) provides such
14 students with such a creden-
15 tial upon completion of such
16 program;

17 “(II) prepares students to pursue
18 1 or more certificate or degree pro-
19 grams at 1 or more institutions of
20 (which may include the institution of
21 higher education providing the pro-
22 gram), including by ensuring—

23 “(aa) that a student, upon
24 completion of the program and
25 enrollment in such a related cer-

1 tificate or degree program, will
2 receive academic credit for the
3 program that will be accepted to-
4 ward meeting such certificate or
5 degree program requirements;
6 and

7 “(bb) the acceptability of
8 such credit toward meeting such
9 certificate or degree program re-
10 quirements; and

11 “(III) posts prominently on the
12 website of the institution the recog-
13 nized postsecondary credential that
14 will be awarded to the student upon
15 completion of the program, including
16 the entity issuing the credential, any
17 third-party endorsements of the cre-
18 dential, the occupation or occupations
19 for which the credential prepares indi-
20 viduals for employment, the com-
21 petencies achieved to earn the creden-
22 tial, the level of mastery of such com-
23 petencies and how mastery is as-
24 sessed, and specific information with
25 respect to where, whether, and under

1 what circumstances the credential is
2 stackable or portable;

3 “(IV) with respect to the infor-
4 mation collected under section
5 131(i)—

6 “(aa) posts such information
7 prominently on the website of the
8 institution; and

9 “(bb) provides such informa-
10 tion in a written disclosure to
11 each prospective student prior to
12 entering into an enrollment
13 agreement with such student for
14 such program, and establishes
15 procedures for each such student
16 to confirm receipt of such disclo-
17 sure;

18 “(V) has established a plan to
19 ensure students who completed the
20 program have access to transcripts for
21 completed coursework without a fee;
22 and

23 “(VI) has been offered by an eli-
24 gible institution of higher education
25 for not less than 1 year prior to the

1 date on which such agency or associa-
2 tion is to make a determination under
3 this paragraph;

4 “(v) after the accrediting agency
5 makes the determination that the program
6 meets the requirements under clause (iv),
7 the Secretary determines that—

8 “(I) for each award year, the
9 program has a verified completion
10 rate of at least 70 percent, within 150
11 percent of the normal time for com-
12 pletion;

13 “(II) for each award year, the
14 program has a verified job placement
15 rate of at least 70 percent, measured
16 180 days after completion;

17 “(III) for each award year, the
18 program charges to a Workforce Pell
19 Grant recipient under section 401(k)
20 a total amount of tuition and fees for
21 the program for such year that does
22 not exceed the value-added earnings of
23 students for the most recent year for
24 which data is available; and

1 “(IV) for at least 2 of the 3 most
2 recent consecutive award years for
3 which data are available, the median
4 earnings of students who completed
5 the program, measured three years
6 after students completed the program,
7 exceeded the annual median earnings
8 of individuals in the State in which
9 the program is located—
10 “(aa) who are in the labor
11 force;
12 “(bb) who are between 25
13 and 34 years of age, inclusive;
14 and
15 “(cc) for whom the highest
16 degree attained is a high school
17 diploma (or recognized equiva-
18 lent); and
19 “(vi) in the case of a program that
20 has been an eligible workforce program
21 under this paragraph for 3 or more years,
22 it uses common, linked, open, and inter-
23 operable data formats when posting on the
24 website of the institution the data required

1 under subclauses (III) and (IV) of clause
2 (iv).

3 “(B)(i) The Secretary shall establish an
4 appeals process wherein a program may request
5 that, in making a determination under subpara-
6 graph (A)(v) (other than with respect to the
7 median earnings of the individuals in the State
8 described in subclause (IV) of such subpara-
9 graph), the Secretary use alternate earnings
10 data, provided by the program, that is based on
11 local, State, or Federal administrative data
12 sources and that is statistically rigorous, accu-
13 rate, comparable to, and representative of such
14 students, if such program objects to a deter-
15 mination made by the Secretary under such
16 subparagraph for purposes of—

17 “(I) eligibility under this para-
18 graph; or

19 “(II) the reporting or publishing
20 of the rates or earnings described in
21 such a determination under section
22 131(i).

23 “(ii) In the case of a program that is
24 seeking to establish initial eligibility under
25 this paragraph that does not have data

1 available for the Secretary to make the de-
2 terminations required under subparagraph
3 (A)(v), the Secretary may, for a period
4 that does not exceed 1 year, make such de-
5 terminations (other than the median earn-
6 ings of the individuals in the State de-
7 scribed in subclause (IV) of such subpara-
8 graph) with respect to the program using,
9 as provided by the program—

10 “(I) alternate earnings data of
11 students who complete the program,
12 provided such data are statistically
13 rigorous, accurate, comparable to, and
14 representative of such students; and

15 “(II) alternate completion and
16 job placement rates of students who
17 enroll in the program, provided such
18 data are statistically rigorous, accu-
19 rate, comparable to, and representa-
20 tive of such students.

21 “(iii) If the Secretary determines that
22 a program provided inaccurate earnings
23 data under clause (i)(I) or clause (ii), such
24 program shall return to the Secretary any
25 funds received under section 401(k) during

1 the period beginning on the date that is
2 the first day of the provisional eligibility
3 period and ending on the date on which
4 the Secretary makes such determination.

5 “(C)(i) In the case of a program that is
6 seeking to establish initial eligibility under this
7 paragraph, the Secretary shall grant eligibility
8 for the program if it meets the requirements of
9 this paragraph not more than 120 days after
10 the date on which the Secretary receives a sub-
11 mission from such program for consideration as
12 an eligible workforce program under this para-
13 graph.

14 “(ii) If a program that is an eligible
15 workforce program under this paragraph
16 no longer meets one or more of the re-
17 quirements under this paragraph, as deter-
18 mined by the State Board, accrediting
19 agency, or the Secretary, the Secretary—

20 “(I) may withdraw the eligibility
21 of such program; and

22 “(II) shall prohibit such pro-
23 gram, and any substantially similar
24 program of the institution, from being
25 considered an eligible workforce pro-

1 gram under this paragraph for a pe-
2 riod of not less than 3 years.

3 “(D)(i) In the case of a program with a
4 number of enrolled students that is insufficient
5 to provide the Secretary with enough relevant
6 data to make the determinations under sub-
7 paragraph (A)(v), the Secretary shall—

8 “(I) aggregate up to 4 years of
9 additional data for such program and
10 use such aggregated data to make
11 such determinations; or

12 “(II) only if such aggregated
13 data under subclause (I) is insuffi-
14 cient, aggregate up to 4 years of data
15 of students who completed or were en-
16 rolled in, as applicable, similar pro-
17 grams at the institution (as deter-
18 mined using the first 4 digits of the
19 CIP codes of such programs) and use
20 such data to make such determina-
21 tions.

22 “(ii) For purposes of this subpara-
23 graph, the term ‘CIP code’ means the 6-
24 digit taxonomic identification code assigned
25 by an institution of higher education to a

1 specific program of study at the institu-
2 tion, determined by the institution in ac-
3 cordance with the Classification of Instruc-
4 tional Programs published by the National
5 Center for Education Statistics.

6 “(E) In this paragraph:

7 “(i) The term ‘eligible institution of
8 higher education’ means an institution of
9 higher education (as defined in section
10 102) that—

11 “(I) is approved by an accred-
12 iting agency or association that meets
13 the requirements of section
14 496(a)(4)(C); and

15 “(II) has not been subject, dur-
16 ing any of the preceding 3 years, to—

17 “(aa) any suspension, emer-
18 gency action, or termination
19 under this title;

20 “(bb) any adverse action by
21 the institution’s accrediting agen-
22 cy or association that revokes or
23 denies accreditation for the insti-
24 tution; or

1 “(cc) any final action by the
2 State where the institution holds
3 its legal domicile, authorization,
4 and accreditation that revokes a
5 license or other authority to oper-
6 ate.

7 “(ii) The term ‘median earnings’,
8 when used with respect to an eligible work-
9 force program under this paragraph—

10 “(I) means the median
11 annualized earnings, calculated using
12 earnings for a pay period, month,
13 quarter, or other time period deemed
14 appropriate by the Secretary, of all
15 students who received Federal finan-
16 cial assistance under this title and
17 who completed the program in an aca-
18 demic year; and

19 “(II) shall be measured a given
20 number of years after such students
21 completed the program, with the num-
22 ber of years determined in accordance
23 with this Act based on the intended
24 use of the median earnings data being
25 calculated.

1 “(iii) With respect to students who re-
2 ceived Federal financial aid under this title
3 and who completed an eligible workforce
4 program under this paragraph in a given
5 year, the term ‘value-added earnings’
6 means—

7 “(I) the median earnings of such
8 students, measured one year after stu-
9 dents completed the program; minus

10 “(II) for the year median earn-
11 ings are measured for such students
12 under subclause (I), 150 percent of
13 the poverty line applicable to a single
14 individual as determined under section
15 673(2) of the Community Services
16 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))
17 for such year and, in the case of a
18 program offered in-person, adjusted
19 by the regional price parity index of
20 the Bureau of Economic Analysis for
21 the metropolitan statistical area in
22 which the eligible institution of higher
23 education offering such program is lo-
24 cated.

1 “(iv) The terms ‘industry or sector
2 partnership’, ‘in-demand industry sector or
3 occupation’, ‘recognized postsecondary cre-
4 dential’, and ‘State board’ have the mean-
5 ings given such terms in section 3 of the
6 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
7 Act.”.

8 **SEC. 4. DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION RELATED**
9 **TO WORKFORCE PELL.**

10 Section 131 (20 U.S.C. 1015) is amended by adding
11 at the end the following:

12 “(i) DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION RE-
13 LATED TO WORKFORCE PELL.—

14 “(1) PRIMARY DATA SOURCE.—The Secretary
15 shall use data from the National Student Loan Data
16 System or administrative data maintained by the
17 Department, matched with Internal Revenue Service
18 income data to collect data and make calculations in
19 accordance with this subsection and section
20 481(b)(3).

21 “(2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall, on an
22 annual basis, collect, verify, and make publicly avail-
23 able on the College Scorecard website (or any similar
24 successor website), the information required under
25 section 481(b)(3)(A)(v), with respect to each eligible

1 program under section 481(b)(3) (hereinafter re-
2 ferred to as an ‘eligible workforce program’), includ-
3 ing—

4 “(A) the length of the program (as meas-
5 ured in clock hours, credit hours, or weeks);

6 “(B) the required tuition and fees of the
7 program;

8 “(C) the difference between the required
9 tuition and fees described in section
10 481(b)(3)(A)(v)(III) and median amount of
11 grant aid (which does not need to be repaid)
12 provided to students receiving Workforce Pell
13 Grants, disaggregated by source of such grant
14 aid;

15 “(D) the median earnings of students as
16 such term is defined in section 481(b)(3)(E);

17 “(E) the median earnings of students who
18 did not complete the program and received Fed-
19 eral financial assistance under this title;

20 “(F) the ratio of the amount described in
21 subparagraph (C) to the value-added earnings
22 (as such term is defined in section
23 481(b)(3)(E)) of students and an explanation,
24 in clear and plain language, of this ratio;

1 “(G) in the case of a program that pre-
2 pares students for a professional licensure or
3 certification examination, the share of such stu-
4 dents who pass such examinations;

5 “(H) the number of students enrolled in
6 the program during the most recent academic
7 year for which data is available;

8 “(I) the percentage of students who enroll
9 in the program and who complete the program
10 within—

11 “(i) 100 percent of the normal time
12 for completion of such program;

13 “(ii) 150 percent of the normal time
14 for completion of such program; and

15 “(iii) 200 percent of the normal time
16 for completion of such program;

17 “(J) the percentage of students who are
18 employed not later than 180 days and 1 year,
19 respectively, after completing the program;

20 “(K) the percentage of individuals—

21 “(i) who have completed such pro-
22 gram; and

23 “(ii) 1 year after such completion,
24 whose median earnings exceed 150 percent
25 of the poverty line applicable to a single in-

1 dividual, as determined under section
2 673(2) of the Community Services Block
3 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2));

4 “(L) the percentage of students who enroll
5 in a certificate or degree program at any insti-
6 tution of higher education within 1 year of com-
7 pleting such program; and

8 “(M) the percentage of students who com-
9 plete a subsequent certificate or degree program
10 at any institution of higher education within 6
11 years of completing such program.

12 “(3) DATA DISAGGREGATION.—The information
13 in subparagraphs (D), (E), and (H) through (M)
14 shall be disaggregated, as applicable and to the ex-
15 tent practicable, by the following student character-
16 istics:

17 “(A) Student’s financial circumstances, in-
18 cluding—

19 “(i) household income categories, as
20 determined by students’ adjusted gross in-
21 come, family size, and poverty line (as de-
22 fined in section 401(a)); and

23 “(ii) student aid index categories, as
24 determined by the Secretary.

25 “(B) Sex.

1 “(C) Race and ethnicity.

2 “(D) Classification as a student with a dis-
3 ability.

4 “(E) Enrollment status, including part-
5 time or full-time enrollment.

6 “(F) Status as an in-district, in-State, or
7 out-of-State student.

8 “(G) Status as a recipient of Federal fi-
9 nancial assistance, including—

10 “(i) a Pell Grant;

11 “(ii) a Workforce Pell Grant;

12 “(iii) a loan made under title IV; and

13 “(iv) veterans’ education benefits (as
14 defined in section 480(c)).

15 “(H) Status as a participant in a program
16 described in section 116(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the
17 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
18 U.S.C. 3141(b)(3)(A)(ii)).

19 “(4) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other
20 provision of this subsection, if disclosure of any data
21 under paragraph (1) is prohibited under State or
22 Federal privacy laws or regulations, the Secretary
23 shall take the steps described in paragraph (5), and
24 any other steps determined by the Secretary to be

1 necessary to make publicly available such data in ac-
2 cordance with such laws and regulations.

3 “(5) SMALL PROGRAMS.—

4 “(A) AGGREGATION.—For purposes of
5 publishing the information described in this
6 subsection with respect to an eligible workforce
7 program, for any year for which the number of
8 students is determined by the Secretary to be of
9 insufficient size to maintain the privacy of stu-
10 dent data, the Secretary shall, to obtain data
11 for a sufficient number of students to maintain
12 student privacy—

13 “(i) aggregate up to 4 years of addi-
14 tional data for such program;

15 “(ii) only if the aggregated data under
16 clause (i) is insufficient to maintain stu-
17 dent privacy or cannot be aggregated, ag-
18 gregate data for students who completed or
19 were enrolled in, as applicable, similar pro-
20 grams at the institution (as determined
21 using the first 4 digits of the CIP codes);
22 or

23 “(iii) only if the aggregated data
24 under clause (ii) is insufficient to maintain
25 student privacy or cannot be aggregated,

1 aggregate data with respect to all students
2 who completed or were enrolled in, as ap-
3 plicable, any program of the institution of
4 the same credential level, in lieu of data
5 specific to students in such program.

6 “(B) NOTIFICATION OF AGGREGATION.—
7 The Secretary shall prominently indicate wheth-
8 er data published under this subsection has
9 been aggregated in accordance with subpara-
10 graph (A).

11 “(C) CIP CODE DEFINED.—For purposes
12 of this paragraph, the term ‘CIP code’ means
13 the 6-digit taxonomic identification code as-
14 signed by an institution of higher education to
15 a specific program of study at the institution,
16 determined by the institution in accordance
17 with the Classification of Instructional Pro-
18 grams published by the National Center for
19 Education Statistics.”.

20 **SEC. 5. ACCREDITING AGENCY DETERMINATION OF ELIGI-**
21 **BILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WORK-**
22 **FORCE PELL GRANTS PROGRAM.**

23 (a) RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCY OR AS-
24 SOCIATION.—Section 496(a)(4) (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4))
25 is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by inserting “and”
4 at the end; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(C) if such agency or association has or
7 seeks to include within its scope of recognition
8 the evaluation of the quality of institutions of-
9 fering an eligible program under section
10 481(b)(3), such agency or association shall, in
11 addition to meeting the other requirements of
12 this subpart, demonstrate to the Secretary that,
13 with respect to such an eligible program—

14 “(i) the agency or association’s stand-
15 ards include a process for determining if
16 the institution has the capability to effec-
17 tively offer such program; and

18 “(ii) the agency or association re-
19 quires a demonstration that the program
20 satisfies the requirements of section
21 481(b)(3)(A)(iv).”.

22 (b) PROSPECTIVE ACCREDITORS.—The Secretary—

23 (1) in the case of an accrediting agency or asso-
24 ciation that is not recognized under section 496 (20
25 U.S.C. 1099b) and that is seeking initial recognition

1 to evaluate only eligible programs under section
2 481(b)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1088(b)), may only recognize
3 such agency or association for such purpose if such
4 agency or association demonstrates, in the applica-
5 tion submitted under such section 496 for such rec-
6 ognition, compliance with the requirements of such
7 section for at least 1 year prior to the date on which
8 such application is submitted;

9 (2) shall, not later than 1 year after receiving
10 such an application, make a recommendation with
11 respect to whether such agency or association should
12 be recognized for such purpose; and

13 (3) shall, after making the recommendation de-
14 scribed in paragraph (2), direct the National Advi-
15 sory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integ-
16 rity (as established by section 114 (20 U.S.C.
17 1011c)) (hereinafter referred to as “NACIQI”) to,
18 at the first scheduled meeting of such Committee
19 following such a recommendation—

20 (A) evaluate the recognition of the agency
21 or association; and

22 (B) advise the Secretary with respect to
23 whether the agency or association meets the cri-
24 teria under section 496(a)(4)(C) of the Higher

1 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4))
2 (as added by subsection (a)).

3 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
4 provide technical assistance to any prospective accrediting
5 agency or association seeking initial recognition by the
6 Secretary under section 496 (20 U.S.C. 1099b), including
7 with respect to recognition to evaluate institutions with
8 an eligible Workforce Pell Grants program.

9 (d) ADDITIONAL NACIQI REVIEW MEETINGS.—For
10 the purpose of preparing for the implementation of the
11 Workforce Pell Grant program under section 401(k) (20
12 U.S.C. 1070a) (as added by section 2 of this Act), and
13 in addition to the meetings required under section
14 114(d)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1011c(d)(1)), NACIQI shall, for the
15 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act
16 and ending on December 31, 2030, hold meetings to evalu-
17 ate the recognition of prospective accrediting agencies or
18 associations described in subsection (b) and the addition
19 to the scope of recognition of accrediting agencies and as-
20 sociations under section 496(a)(4)(C) (20 U.S.C.
21 1099b(a)(4)) (as added by subsection (a)).

22 (e) INTERIM ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY.—

23 (1) NOTIFICATION.—Beginning on the date of
24 the enactment of this Act, a recognized accrediting
25 agency or association that seeks, for the first time,

1 to add to its scope of recognition the evaluation of
2 the quality of institutions offering an eligible pro-
3 gram under section 481(b)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1088(b))
4 (as added by section 3 of this Act) may include with-
5 in its scope of recognition the evaluation of such in-
6 stitutions if such agency or association—

7 (A) submits to the Secretary a notification
8 of the agency or association's intent to add the
9 evaluation of such institutions to its scope of
10 recognition; and

11 (B) includes with such notification an ex-
12 planation of how the agency or association in-
13 tends to meet the criteria under section
14 496(a)(4)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4)) (as
15 added by subsection (a)).

16 (2) REVIEW OF SCOPE OF CHANGES.—Upon re-
17 ceipt of a notification from an accrediting agency or
18 association described in paragraph (1)(A), the Sec-
19 retary shall direct NACIQI to evaluate, at the next
20 available meeting of such Committee, the addition to
21 the scope of recognition of the agency or association
22 and to advise the Secretary with respect to whether
23 the agency or association meets the criteria under
24 section 496(a)(4)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4)) (as
25 added by subsection (a)).

1 (3) TERMINATION OF INTERIM AUTHORITY.—

2 The interim authority granted to an agency or asso-
3 ciation under this paragraph shall terminate on the
4 earlier of—

5 (A) the date that is 5 years after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act; or

7 (B) the date on which the Secretary deter-
8 mines whether such agency or association meets
9 the criteria under section 496(a)(4)(C) (20
10 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(4)) (as added by subsection
11 (a)).

12 **SEC. 6. AGREEMENTS WITH APPLICABLE EDUCATIONAL IN-**
13 **STITUTIONS.**

14 (a) DIRECT LOANS.—Section 454 (20 U.S.C. 1087d)
15 is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and”
18 after the semicolon;

19 (B) by redesignating paragraph (6) as
20 paragraph (7); and

21 (C) by inserting after paragraph (5) the
22 following new paragraph:

23 “(6) in the case of an applicable educational in-
24 stitution, provide annual reimbursements to the Sec-

1 retary in accordance with the requirements under
2 subsection (d); and”;

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
4 section:

5 “(d) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

6 “(1) ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENTS REQUIRED.—

7 Beginning in award year 2025–2026, each applicable
8 educational institution participating in the direct
9 student loan program under this part shall, for
10 qualifying student loans, provide a reimbursement to
11 the Secretary, at such time as the Secretary may
12 specify but not less than annually, for each student
13 cohort of the institution, for an amount equal to the
14 non-repayment loan balance of such cohort and de-
15 termined in accordance with paragraph (5).

16 “(2) STUDENT COHORTS.—For each applicable
17 educational institution, the Secretary shall establish
18 a student cohort, for each award year beginning
19 with award year 2024–2025, comprised of—

20 “(A) all students who received Federal fi-
21 nancial assistance under this title and who com-
22 pleted any program of study at such applicable
23 educational institution during such award year;
24 and

1 “(B) all students who received Federal fi-
2 nancial assistance under this title, who were en-
3 rolled in the applicable education institution
4 during the previous award year, and who at the
5 time the cohort is established—

6 “(i) have not completed any program
7 of study at the applicable educational insti-
8 tution; and

9 “(ii) are not enrolled at the applicable
10 educational institution.

11 “(3) QUALIFYING STUDENT LOAN.—For the
12 purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualifying stu-
13 dent loan’ means a Federal Direct loan, including a
14 Federal Direct Consolidation loan, made under this
15 part that—

16 “(A) is a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, a
17 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or
18 a Federal Direct Plus Loan to any eligible stu-
19 dent;

20 “(B) was made to a student included in a
21 student cohort of an applicable educational in-
22 stitution;

23 “(C) except in the case of a loan described
24 in paragraph (4)(A), is not included in any

1 other student cohort of any other institution of
2 higher education;

3 “(D) is not in—

4 “(i) a medical or dental internship or
5 residency forbearance described in section
6 428(c)(3)(A)(i)(I), section 428B(a)(2), sec-
7 tion 428H(a), or section 685.205(a)(3) of
8 title 34, Code of Federal Regulations;

9 “(ii) a graduate fellowship deferment
10 described in section 455(f)(2)(A)(ii);

11 “(iii) rehabilitation training program
12 deferment described under section
13 455(f)(2)(A)(ii);

14 “(iv) an in-school deferment described
15 under section 455(f)(2)(A)(i);

16 “(v) a cancer deferment described
17 under section 455(f)(3);

18 “(vi) a military service deferment de-
19 scribed under section 455(f)(2)(C); or

20 “(vii) a post-active duty student
21 deferment described under section 493D;

22 and

23 “(E) is not in default.

24 “(4) SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—

1 “(A) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CONSOLI-
2 DATION LOANS.—A Federal Direct Consolida-
3 tion loan made under this title shall not be con-
4 sidered a qualifying student loan for a student
5 cohort for an award year if all of the loans in-
6 cluded in such consolidation loan are attrib-
7 utable to another student cohort.

8 “(B) CONSOLIDATION AFTER INCLUSION
9 IN A STUDENT COHORT.—If a qualifying stu-
10 dent loan is consolidated into a consolidation
11 loan under this title after such qualifying stu-
12 dent loan has been included in a student cohort,
13 the percentage of the consolidation loan that
14 was attributable to such student cohort at the
15 time of consolidation shall remain attributable
16 to the student cohort for the life of the consoli-
17 dation loan.

18 “(5) NON-REPAYMENT LOAN BALANCE.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each award year,
20 the Secretary shall determine the non-repay-
21 ment loan balance for such award year for each
22 student cohort of an applicable educational in-
23 stitution by calculating the sum of—

24 “(i) for loans in such cohort, the dif-
25 ference between the total amount of pay-

1 ments due from all borrowers on such
2 loans during such year and the total
3 amount of payments made by all such bor-
4 rowers on such loans during such year;

5 “(ii) the total amount of interest
6 waived, paid, or otherwise not charged by
7 the Secretary during such year under an
8 income-based repayment plan described in
9 section 493C or an income-contingent re-
10 payment plan described in section 455(e);
11 and

12 “(iii) the total amount of principal
13 and interest forgiven, cancelled, waived,
14 discharged, repaid, or otherwise reduced by
15 the Secretary under any act during such
16 year that is not included in clause (ii) and
17 was not discharged or forgiven under sec-
18 tion 437(a) or 428J.

19 “(B) SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—For the
20 purpose of calculating the non-repayment loan
21 balance of student cohorts under this para-
22 graph, the Secretary shall—

23 “(i) for each qualifying student loan
24 in a student cohort that is included in an-
25 other student cohort because the student

1 who borrowed such loan completed two or
2 more programs of study during the same
3 award year, the total amount described in
4 clauses (i) through (iii) of subparagraph
5 (A) for such qualifying student loan shall
6 be divided equally among each of the stu-
7 dent cohorts in which such loan is in-
8 cluded; and

9 “ (ii) for each consolidation loan in a
10 student cohort—

11 “ (I) determine the percentage of
12 the outstanding principal balance of
13 the consolidation loan attributable to
14 such student cohort—

15 “ (aa) at the time of that
16 loan was included in such cohort,
17 in the case of a loan consolidated
18 before inclusion in such cohort;
19 or

20 “ (bb) at the time of consoli-
21 dation, in the case of a loan con-
22 solidated after inclusion in such
23 cohort; and

24 “ (II) include in the calculations
25 under subparagraph (A) for such stu-

1 dent cohort only the percentage of the
2 sum of the amounts described in
3 clauses (i) through (iii) of subpara-
4 graph (A) for the consolidation loan
5 for such year that is equal to the per-
6 centage of the consolidation loan de-
7 termined under subclause (I).

8 “(6) NOTIFICATION AND REMITTANCE.—Begin-
9 ning with the first award year for which reimburse-
10 ments are required under this subsection, and for
11 each succeeding award year, the Secretary shall—

12 “(A) notify each applicable educational in-
13 stitution of the amounts and due dates of each
14 annual reimbursement calculated under para-
15 graph (1) for each student cohort of the institu-
16 tion within 30 days of calculating such
17 amounts; and

18 “(B) require the applicable educational in-
19 stitution to provide such reimbursement within
20 180 days of such notification.

21 “(7) APPLICABLE EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-
22 TION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
23 ‘applicable educational institution’ means an institu-
24 tion of higher education that is an organization sub-

1 ject to taxation under section 4968 of title 26,
2 United States Code.”.

3 (b) FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OP-
4 PORTUNITY GRANTS.—Section 413C(a) (20 U.S.C.
5 1070b–2(a)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), by redesignating subpara-
7 graphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv),
8 respectively;

9 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
10 (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

11 (3) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
12 as so redesignated, by striking “Assistance may”
13 and inserting

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance may”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(2) EXCEPTION.—In addition to the require-
17 ments under paragraph (1), for award year 2025–
18 2026, and each subsequent award year, an institu-
19 tion that is an applicable educational institution that
20 is an organization subject to taxation under section
21 4968 of title 26, United States Code, may only re-
22 ceive assistance under this subpart if such institu-
23 tion guarantees that, for each such award year—

24 “(A) the total amount of grants and schol-
25 arships, including other financial assistance (as

1 defined in section 480(i)) not received under
2 this title, awarded to a student who receives a
3 Federal Pell Grant under this title shall not be
4 less than the student's cost of attendance (as
5 defined in section 472); and

6 “(B) the percentage of students enrolled at
7 such institution who are eligible for a Federal
8 Pell Grant will be equal to or greater than the
9 percentage of students who were enrolled at
10 such institution and were eligible for a Federal
11 Pell Grant in the award year during which the
12 Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act was enacted.”.

13 (c) STUDY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2026,
15 the Comptroller General of the United States shall
16 conduct a study on the impact of the reimbursement
17 requirements included in section 454 of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087d), as
19 amended by subsection (a). Such analysis shall in-
20 clude—

21 (A) an analysis of the impact on student
22 enrollment, progression, retention, completion,
23 and time to credential;

24 (B) an analysis of the impact on student
25 debt and repayment, including amounts bor-

1 rowed and repayment rates of students receiv-
2 ing Federal financial assistance under title IV
3 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

5 (C) an analysis of the impact on college
6 costs and financial aid, including—

7 (i) the cost of attendance, including
8 such cost disaggregated by the costs de-
9 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (14) of
10 section 472(a) of the Higher Education
11 Act of 1965, as amended by the FAFSA
12 Simplification Act (title VII of division FF
13 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
14 2021 (Public Law 116–260)); and

15 (ii) the grants and scholarships re-
16 ceived by students at the institution and
17 the number and percentage of such stu-
18 dents receiving such grants and scholar-
19 ships, disaggregated by source and whether
20 such aid is need-based, merit-based, or
21 other type of grant or scholarship; and

22 (D) an analysis of the impact on post-com-
23 pletion outcomes, including earnings and em-
24 ployment of students receiving Federal financial

1 assistance under title IV of the Higher Edu-
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

3 (2) DISAGGREGATED INFORMATION.—

4 (A) STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS.—The
5 Comptroller General of the United States shall
6 ensure the information described in paragraph
7 (1) is disaggregated, as applicable and to the
8 extent practicable, by the following student
9 characteristics:

10 (i) The household income or student
11 aid index categories described in
12 131(i)(3)(A) of the Higher Education Act
13 of 1965, as added by section 4 of this Act.

14 (ii) The other student characteristics
15 described in subparagraphs (B) through
16 (J) of section 131(i)(3) of the Higher Edu-
17 cation Act of 1965, as added by section 4
18 of this Act.

19 (B) PROGRAM OF STUDY.—The Comp-
20 troller General of the United States shall en-
21 sure the information described in paragraph (1)
22 is disaggregated, as applicable, by program of
23 study and credential level.

24 (d) REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2029, the
25 Comptroller General of the United States shall—

1 (1) complete the study under subsection (c);
2 and

3 (2) submit to the Committee on Education and
4 the Workforce of the House of Representatives and
5 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
6 Pensions of the Senate a report that includes the re-
7 sults of such study.

8 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

9 Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this
10 Act, shall be construed to impose or increase an occupa-
11 tional licensing or certification requirement on eligible pro-
12 grams under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965
13 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).