

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9203

To increase the transparency of colleges and universities in carrying out their civil rights responsibilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Ms. GILLEN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To increase the transparency of colleges and universities in carrying out their civil rights responsibilities, 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 “Student Protection and
5 University Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE AND TRANSPARENCY RELATED TO**
7 **TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.**

8 (a) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT RE-
9 QUIREMENT.—Section 487 of the Higher Education Act
10 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as
2 subsections (j) and (k), respectively;

3 (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
4 following new paragraph:

5 “(30) The institution will comply with the pro-
6 visions of subsection (i) and provide to the Secretary
7 an annual attestation of such compliance.”; and

8 (3) by inserting after subsection (h) the fol-
9 lowing new subsection:

10 “(i) COMPLIANCE AND TRANSPARENCY RELATED TO
11 COMPLAINTS UNDER TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS
12 ACT OF 1964.—

13 “(1) COMPLIANCE AND TRANSPARENCY.—With
14 respect to complaints received by an institution re-
15 lated to alleged violations of title VI of the Civil
16 Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), the
17 institution shall take the following actions:

18 “(A) Have in effect investigative processes
19 related to such complaints, which shall include
20 each of the elements listed in clauses (i)
21 through (vi) of subparagraph (B), and make
22 publicly available (including on the website of
23 the institution), and widely distribute to stu-
24 dents and their families (including in student

1 orientation materials), a description of such in-
2 vestigative processes.

3 “(B) Include in the investigative processes
4 described in subparagraph (A) at least the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(i) The processes and factors used to
7 determine whether such complaints will be
8 investigated by the institution and how the
9 outcome of an investigation will be deter-
10 mined.

11 “(ii) A designation of at least one em-
12 ployee to coordinate its efforts to comply
13 with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
14 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), including
15 any investigation of such complaints.

16 “(iii) A procedure to ensure that, for
17 each such complaint received by the insti-
18 tution, the complainant will receive from
19 the institution—

20 “(I) not later than 30 days after
21 receipt of such complaint—

22 “(aa) notification of the re-
23 ceipt of the complaint;

24 “(bb) notification of whether
25 or not an investigation has been

1 opened in response to the com-
2 plaint;

3 “(cc) in the case that an in-
4 vestigation is not opened in re-
5 sponse to the complaint, an ex-
6 planation of why an investigation
7 was not opened, including a sum-
8 mary of the information that was
9 used to determine that an inves-
10 tigation should not be opened;
11 and

12 “(dd) in the case that an in-
13 vestigation is opened, notification
14 that an investigation of the com-
15 plaint will be carried out and
16 that the complainant will be noti-
17 fied of the outcome of the inves-
18 tigation; and

19 “(II) not later than 30 days after
20 an outcome of an investigation is
21 reached, notification of the outcome of
22 the investigation, including an expla-
23 nation of how the outcome was
24 reached, and any remedial actions
25 taken in response to the complaint.

1 “(iv) A system for keeping and main-
2 taining records of such complaints, includ-
3 ing the determination and reasoning for
4 whether or not an investigation into a com-
5 plaint was opened by the institution, notifi-
6 cations to and communications with the
7 complainant and, if applicable, the re-
8 spondent, a record of the investigation (in-
9 cluding the outcome thereof), and a record
10 of any remedial actions taken in response
11 to the complaint.

12 “(v) The contact information and nec-
13 essary steps for reporting such complaints
14 to the institution.

15 “(vi) The contact information and
16 necessary steps for reporting a complaint
17 related to an alleged violation of title VI of
18 the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.
19 2000d et seq.) to the Office for Civil
20 Rights of the Department of Education,
21 including the hyperlink to the electronic
22 complaint form of the Office for Civil
23 Rights for an alleged violation of such title;
24 and

1 “(C) With respect to public awareness
2 campaign materials created and distributed by
3 the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of
4 Education relating to protections for individuals
5 under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
6 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), display and publish
7 such materials, as applicable—

8 “(i) not later than 30 days after such
9 materials are distributed;

10 “(ii) for not less than 1 year or until
11 new such materials are distributed, which-
12 ever is later;

13 “(iii) in high traffic, public places on
14 the campus of the institution; and

15 “(iv) on a publicly available website of
16 the institution.

17 “(2) ENFORCEMENT.—An institution of higher
18 education that fails to comply with the provisions of
19 subsection (a)(30) for two consecutive award years
20 shall be ineligible to participate in the programs au-
21 thorized by this title for a period of not less than the
22 first two subsequent award years. To regain eligi-
23 bility to participate in the programs authorized by
24 this title, an institution of higher education shall
25 demonstrate compliance with paragraph (1) prior to

1 the completion of the period during which the insti-
2 tution is ineligible due to failure to comply with such
3 paragraph.”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first
6 award year (as such term is defined in section 481 of the
7 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088)) begin-
8 ning after the date of enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 3. OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS.**

10 (a) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 30
12 days after the date of enactment of this Act and
13 ending 2 years after such date of enactment, the As-
14 sistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department
15 of Education (or the designee of such Assistant Sec-
16 retary) shall provide a briefing, on a bimonthly
17 basis, to the authorizing committees about com-
18 plaints alleging discrimination on the basis of race,
19 color, or national origin in violation of title VI of the
20 Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.)
21 that have been received by the Office for Civil
22 Rights of the Department of Education in the pre-
23 ceding month—

24 (A) in a manner that—

1 (i) protects personally identifiable in-
2 formation; and

3 (ii) disaggregates information by the
4 basis of such alleged discrimination (in-
5 cluding shared ancestry); and

6 (B) that includes—

7 (i) the number of such complaints;

8 (ii) a description of—

9 (I) how the Office has addressed
10 or plans to address such complaints;
11 and

12 (II) the investigations being car-
13 ried out in response to such com-
14 plaints, as applicable; and

15 (iii) data about the length of such in-
16 vestigations.

17 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 48 hours prior to
18 each briefing required under paragraph (1), the As-
19 sistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department
20 of Education (or the designee of such Assistant Sec-
21 retary) shall submit to the authorizing committees a
22 written report that contains the information that will
23 be presented at such briefing and that complies with
24 the requirements of paragraph (1)(A).

1 (3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
2 section:

3 (A) AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.—The
4 term “authorizing committees” means the Com-
5 mittee on Education and Workforce of the
6 House of Representatives and the Committee
7 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
8 the Senate.

9 (B) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means
10 the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of
11 Education.

12 (b) OCR PROCESS REFORMS.—

13 (1) DISMISSALS.—The Office may not close or
14 dismiss any complaint regarding discrimination on
15 the basis of race, color, or national origin in viola-
16 tion of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
17 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) due to the filing of a com-
18 plaint involving the same allegations against the
19 same recipient—

20 (A) by an individual other than the com-
21 plainant with another Federal, State, or local
22 agency, a court, or the recipient, unless the Of-
23 fice determines that—

1 (i) a court has certified a class action
2 with respect to the alleged violation of such
3 other individual's complaint;

4 (ii) such other individual is a member
5 of such class; and

6 (iii) the complainant is a member of
7 such class; or

8 (B) by the complainant with another Fed-
9 eral, State, or local agency, a court, or the re-
10 cipient.

11 (2) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Office may not
12 delay an investigation of a complaint due to the fil-
13 ing of a complaint involving the same allegations
14 against the same recipient with another Federal,
15 State, or local agency or the recipient.

16 (3) RECIPIENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this
17 subsection, the term “recipient” means an institu-
18 tion of higher education (as such term is defined in
19 section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
20 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) that receives funds under an ap-
21 plicable program (as such term is defined in section
22 400 of the General Education Provisions Act (20
23 U.S.C. 1221)).

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