

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain grant requirements for certain students with disabilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain grant requirements for certain students with disabilities, 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 “Higher Education
5 Grant Flexibility Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.**

7 Section 401(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(2)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “In any case” and inserting the
10 following:

1 “(A) REDUCTION.—Except as provided in
2 subparagraph (B), in any case”; and

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

4 “(B) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
6 student with a disability (as defined in sec-
7 tion 3 of the Americans with Disabilities
8 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) for whom
9 a reduced course load has been approved
10 as a reasonable accommodation under sec-
11 tion 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
12 (29 U.S.C. 794) or the Americans with
13 Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101
14 et seq.), the student’s enrollment in the re-
15 duced course load or 5 credits (or the
16 equivalent), whichever is greater, shall be
17 deemed to be enrollment on a full-time
18 basis for purposes of calculating the ele-
19 ments of cost of attendance for such stu-
20 dent under paragraphs (2) through (14) of
21 section 472(a) for purposes of determining
22 the amount of the Federal Pell Grant to
23 which the student is entitled. Subsection
24 (b) of section 472 shall not apply with re-
25 spect to such student.

1 “(ii) LIMITED APPLICATION.—A de-
2 termination under clause (i) shall not be
3 used in the calculation of Federal Pell
4 Grant semester eligibility under subsection
5 (d)(5).”.

6 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPOR-**
7 **TUNITY GRANTS.**

8 Section 413B(a) of the Higher Education Act of
9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b–1(a)) is amended by adding at
10 the end the following:

11 “(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this sub-
12 part or part F of this title, in the case of a student with
13 a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with
14 Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) for whom a
15 reduced course load has been approved as a reasonable
16 accommodation under section 504 of the Rehabilitation
17 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) or the Americans with Dis-
18 abilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the stu-
19 dent’s enrollment in the reduced course load or 5 credits
20 (or the equivalent), whichever is greater, shall be deemed
21 to be enrollment on a full-time basis for purposes of calcu-
22 lating the elements of cost of attendance for such student
23 under paragraphs (2) through (14) of section 472(a) for
24 purposes of determining the amount of the supplemental
25 grant to which the student is entitled in accordance with

1 the provisions of part F of this title. Subsection (b) of
2 section 472 shall not apply with respect to such student.”.

3 **SEC. 4. TEACH GRANTS.**

4 Section 420M(c) of the Higher Education Act of
5 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g–1(c)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “In any case”
7 and inserting “Subject to paragraph (3), in any
8 case”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(3) **TEACHER CANDIDATES WITH A DIS-**
11 **ABILITY.**—In the case of a teacher candidate with a
12 disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans
13 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) for
14 whom a reduced course load has been approved as
15 a reasonable accommodation under section 504 of
16 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) or
17 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42
18 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the teacher candidate’s en-
19 rollment in the reduced course load or 5 credits (or
20 the equivalent), whichever is greater, shall be
21 deemed to be enrollment on a full-time basis for pur-
22 poses of calculating the elements of cost of attend-
23 ance for such student under paragraphs (2) through
24 (14) of section 472(a) for purposes of determining
25 the amount of the grant under this subpart to which

1 the teacher candidate is entitled. Subsection (b) of
2 section 472 shall not apply with respect to such
3 teacher candidate.”.

4 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 The amendments made by this section shall take ef-
6 fect as if included in section 703 of division FF of the
7 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–
8 260) and subject to the effective date of section 701(b)
9 of such FAFSA Simplification Act, as amended by section
10 102(a) of the FAFSA Simplification Act Technical Cor-
11 rections Act (division R of Public Law 117–103) (includ-
12 ing the authorization provided under section 102(c)(1)(A)
13 of such Act).