

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 996

To improve college affordability.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 1, 2017

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To improve college affordability.

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 “Creating Higher Edu-
5 cation Affordability Necessary to Compete Economically
6 Act” or the “Middle Class CHANCE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF A FED-**
8 **ERAL PELL GRANT.**

9 Section 401(b)(7)(C) of the Higher Education Act of
10 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(C)) is amended—

11 (1) in clause (i)(I), by striking “clause (iv)(II)”
12 and inserting “clause (v)(II)”;

1 (2) in clause (ii)—

2 (A) in the heading, by striking “THROUGH
3 2017–2018” and inserting “THROUGH 2016–2017”;

4 (B) in the matter preceding subclause (I),
5 by striking “through 2017–2018” and inserting
6 “and 2016–2017”; and

7 (C) in subclause (I), by striking “clause
8 (iv)(II)” and inserting “clause (v)(II)”;

9 (3) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as
10 clauses (iv) and (v), respectively;

11 (4) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

12 “(iii) AWARD YEAR 2017–2018.—For
13 award year 2017–2018, the amount deter-
14 mined under this subparagraph for pur-
15 poses of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be
16 equal to—

17 “(I) \$9,650; reduced by

18 “(II) the maximum Federal Pell
19 Grant for which a student was eligi-
20 ble, as specified in the last enacted
21 appropriation Act applicable to award
22 year 2017–2018; and

23 “(III) rounded to the nearest
24 \$5.”; and

(5) by striking clause (iv), as redesignated by paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

“(iv) SUBSEQUENT AWARD YEARS.—

For award year 2018–2019 and each subsequent award year, the amount determined under this subparagraph for purposes of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be equal to—

“(I) the amount determined under this subparagraph for the preceding award year; increased by

“(II) a percentage equal to the annual adjustment percentage for the award year for which the amount under this subparagraph is being determined; and

“(III) rounded to the nearest \$5.”.

SEC. 3. YEAR-ROUND FEDERAL PELL GRANT STUDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8)(A) In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible student’ means a student who—

1 “(i) has received a Federal Pell Grant for an
2 award year and is enrolled in an eligible program for
3 one or more additional payment periods during the
4 same award year that are not otherwise fully covered
5 by the student’s Federal Pell Grant;

6 “(ii) continues to meets all eligibility require-
7 ments to receive a Federal Pell Grant under this
8 section; and

9 “(iii) attends an institution of higher education
10 on average, not less than a half-time basis.

11 “(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
12 subsection, the Secretary shall award an additional Fed-
13 eral Pell Grant to an eligible student for the additional
14 payment periods during an award year that are not other-
15 wise fully covered by the student’s Federal Pell Grant for
16 the award year.

17 “(C) In the case of a student receiving more than
18 one Federal Pell Grant in a single award year under sub-
19 paragraph (B), the total amount of the Federal Pell
20 Grants awarded to such student for the award year shall
21 not exceed an amount equal to 150 percent of the total
22 maximum Federal Pell Grant for such award year cal-
23 culated in accordance with paragraph (7)(C)(v)(II).

24 “(D) Any period of study covered by a Federal Pell
25 Grant awarded under subparagraph (B) shall be included

1 in determining a student’s duration limit under subsection
 2 (c)(5).

3 “(9) In any case where an eligible student is receiving
 4 a Federal Pell Grant for a payment period that spans 2
 5 award years, the Secretary shall allow the eligible institu-
 6 tion in which the student is enrolled to determine the
 7 award year to which the additional period shall be as-
 8 signed.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 10 subsection (a) shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

11 **SEC. 4. PELL GRANT DURATION LIMIT.**

12 Section 401(c)(5) of the Higher Education Act of
 13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(c)(5)) is amended by striking “12
 14 semesters” and inserting “15 semesters” each place the
 15 term appears.

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