

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1387

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 9, 2019

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, 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 “Consider Teachers
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEACH GRANTS.**

7 Section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965
8 (20 U.S.C. 1070g–2) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(D), by inserting, “by
 2 not later than the October 31 following the year of
 3 such service”;

4 (2) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) by striking “In the event” and insert-
 6 ing the following:

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event”; and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(2) RECONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION DECISIONS.—
 10

11 “(A) REQUEST TO RECONSIDER.—In any
 12 case where the Secretary has determined that a
 13 recipient of a grant under this subpart has
 14 failed or refused to comply with the service obli-
 15 gation in the agreement under subsection (b)
 16 and has converted the grant into a Federal Di-
 17 rect Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D
 18 in accordance with paragraph (1), the recipient
 19 may request that the Secretary reconsider the
 20 determination and may submit additional infor-
 21 mation to demonstrate satisfaction of the serv-
 22 ice obligation.

23 “(B) RECONSIDERATION.—If, in reconsid-
 24 ering a determination under subparagraph (A),
 25 the Secretary determines that the reason for

1 the initial determination was the recipient's fail-
2 ure to timely submit an annual recertification
3 required under subsection (b)(1)(D), and that
4 the recipient has, as of the date of the reconsid-
5 eration, demonstrated that the recipient did
6 meet, or is meeting the service obligation in the
7 agreement under subsection (b), the Secretary
8 shall—

9 “(i) discharge the Federal Direct Un-
10 subsidized Stafford Loan under part D,
11 and reinstate the recipient's grant under
12 this subpart;

13 “(ii) discharge any interest or fees
14 that may have accumulated during the pe-
15 riod that the grant was converted to a
16 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford
17 Loan under part D;

18 “(iii) if the recipient has other loans
19 under part D, apply any payments made
20 for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Staf-
21 ford Loan under part D during such pe-
22 riod to those other loans under part D;

23 “(iv) if the recipient does not have
24 other loans under part D, reimburse the
25 recipient for any amounts paid on the Fed-

1 eral Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
2 under part D during such period; and

3 “(v) use the additional information
4 provided under subparagraph (A) to deter-
5 mine the progress the recipient has made
6 in meeting the service obligation.

7 “(C) EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMPLETE
8 SERVICE OBLIGATION.—In the case of a recipi-
9 ent whose grant under this subpart was rein-
10 stated in accordance with subparagraph (B)
11 prior to December 31, 2018, the Secretary may
12 extend the time remaining for the recipient to
13 fulfill the service obligation for a period of time
14 equal to the time that recipient had remaining
15 to fulfill the service obligation at the time that
16 grant was originally converted into a Federal
17 Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part
18 D of title IV in accordance with paragraph (1).

19 “(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
20 in this paragraph shall be construed to mean
21 that the service obligation under this subpart is
22 waived.”; and

23 (3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
24 following:

1 “(3) COMMUNICATION WITH RECIPIENTS.—The
2 Secretary shall ensure that each servicer for grants
3 under this subpart notifies TEACH grant recipients
4 by October 5 of each year regarding how to submit
5 documentation regarding the grants under this sub-
6 part and the October 31 deadline established under
7 subsection (b)(1)(D).”.

○