

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

117-31

OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

Add at the end of title III of division J the following:

1 **SEC. _____ . COLLEGE RETENTION AND COMPLETION**
2 **GRANTS PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1133 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“PART F—RETENTION AND COMPLETION**
7 **GRANTS PILOT PROGRAM**

8 **“SEC. 782. RETENTION AND COMPLETION GRANTS.**

9 “Beginning with award year 2023–2024, from
10 amounts appropriated to carry out this part for any fiscal
11 year, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot grant program
12 to make grants (which shall be known as ‘retention and
13 completion grants’) to eligible States and Tribal Colleges
14 and Universities to enable the eligible States and Tribal
15 Colleges and Universities to carry out the activities de-
16 scribed in section 782D.

1 **“SEC. 782A. GRANT AMOUNTS.**

2 “(a) RESERVATION.—From the amounts appro-
3 priated to carry out this part, the Secretary shall—

4 “(1) reserve an amount equal to 3 percent of
5 such amounts to allocate grants to Tribal Colleges
6 and Universities, which shall be distributed accord-
7 ing to the formula in section 316(d)(3)(B), to carry
8 out the activities described in section 782D(b)(1)
9 and implement reforms or practices that meet an
10 evidence tier defined in section 782E(2); and

11 “(2) use the amount remaining after the alloca-
12 tion under paragraph (1) to award competitive
13 grants to eligible States that have submitted applica-
14 tions under section 782B.

15 “(b) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
16 awarded under this part shall be used to supplement, and
17 not supplant, other Federal, State, tribal, and local funds
18 that would otherwise be expended to carry out activities
19 assisted under this part.

20 “(c) GRANT PERIOD.—Subject to the requirements
21 under section 782C, a grant under this part shall be for
22 a period of not more than 7 years.

23 **“SEC. 782B. APPLICATIONS.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a
25 grant under this part, an eligible State shall submit an
26 application to the Secretary that includes—

1 “(1) a description of—

2 “(A) how the eligible State will use the
3 funds to implement evidence-based institutional
4 reforms or practices at institutions of higher
5 education in such State to improve student out-
6 comes and meet the requirements of section
7 782D(b)(2), including—

8 “(i) how such eligible State will use
9 grant funds to implement 1 or more re-
10 forms or practices described in section
11 782D(b)(1) at such institutions;

12 “(ii) the extent to which each reform
13 or practice to be implemented meets an
14 evidence tier defined in section 782E(2);
15 and

16 “(iii) annual implementation bench-
17 marks that the eligible State will use to
18 track progress in implementing such re-
19 forms or practices;

20 “(B) how such eligible State will increase
21 support for the public institutions of higher
22 education identified in accordance with para-
23 graph (2)(B); and

24 “(C) the improvements the eligible State
25 anticipates in student outcomes, including im-

1 provements in retention, completion, or transfer
2 rates or labor market outcomes, or a combina-
3 tion of such student outcomes, disaggregated by
4 student demographics including, at a minimum,
5 race, ethnicity, income, disability status, reme-
6 diation, and status as a first generation college
7 student;

8 “(2)(A) with respect to each State public insti-
9 tution of higher education—

10 “(i) the total per-student fund-
11 ing;

12 “(ii) the amount of per-student
13 funding that is from State-appro-
14 priated funds; and

15 “(iii) the share of students at the
16 institution who are students of color,
17 low-income students, students with
18 disabilities, students in need of reme-
19 diation, or first generation college stu-
20 dents; and

21 “(B) an identification of public institutions of
22 higher education in the eligible State that received
23 less funding on a per-student basis as described in
24 clause (i) or (ii), or both, of subparagraph (A), and
25 are serving disproportionately high shares of stu-

1 dents of color, low-income students, students with
2 disabilities, students in need of remediation, or first
3 generation college students;

4 “(3) a description of the steps the eligible State
5 will take to ensure the sustainability of the institu-
6 tional reforms or practices identified in paragraph
7 (1)(A); and

8 “(4) a description of how the eligible State will
9 evaluate the effectiveness of activities funded under
10 this part, including how such an eligible State will
11 assess impacts on student outcomes, including reten-
12 tion, transfer, and completion rates and labor mar-
13 ket outcomes.

14 “(b) PRIORITIES.—In awarding funds under this
15 part, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible States
16 that do one or more of the following:

17 “(1) Propose to use a significant share of grant
18 funds for reforms or practices that meet an evidence
19 tier defined in section 782E(2).

20 “(2) Propose to use a significant share of grant
21 funds to improve retention, transfer, and completion
22 rates and labor market outcomes among students of
23 color, low-income students, students with disabilities,
24 students in need of remediation, first generation col-

1 lege students, and other underserved student popu-
2 lations in such State.

3 “(3) Propose to use a significant share of grant
4 funds to improve retention, transfer, and completion
5 rates and labor market outcomes among students at-
6 tending institutions identified in subsection
7 (a)(2)(B).

8 “(4) Demonstrate a commitment to supporting
9 activities funded under this part with non-Federal
10 funds.

11 **“SEC. 782C. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of continuing to
13 receive funds under this part, for each year in which an
14 eligible State participates in the program under this part,
15 the eligible State shall submit to the Secretary the eligible
16 State’s progress—

17 “(1) in meeting the annual implementation
18 benchmarks included in the application of such eligi-
19 ble State under section 782B(a)(1)(A)(iii);

20 “(2) in increasing funding for the public insti-
21 tutions of higher education identified in accordance
22 with section 782B(a)(2)(B), as included in the appli-
23 cation of such eligible State under section
24 782B(a)(1)(B); and

1 “(3) in improving the student outcomes identi-
2 fied by the State under section 782B(a)(1)(C).

3 “(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.—No individual
4 shall be determined to be ineligible to receive benefits pro-
5 vided under this part (including services and other aid pro-
6 vided under this part) on the basis of citizenship, alienage,
7 or immigration status.

8 **“SEC. 782D. USES OF FUNDS.**

9 “(a) GENERAL REQUIREMENT FOR STATES.—Except
10 as provided in subsection (c), an eligible State shall use
11 a grant under this part only to carry out activities de-
12 scribed in the application for such year under section
13 782B(a)(1).

14 “(b) EVIDENCE-BASED INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS OR
15 PRACTICES.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible State or Tribal
17 College or University receiving a grant under this
18 part shall, directly or in collaboration with institu-
19 tions of higher education and other non-profit orga-
20 nizations, use the grant funds to implement one or
21 more of the following evidence-based institutional re-
22 forms or practices:

23 “(A) Providing comprehensive academic,
24 career, and student support services, including

1 mentoring, advising, case management services,
2 or career pathway navigation.

3 “(B) Providing assistance in applying for
4 and accessing direct support services, means
5 tested Federal benefit programs, or similar
6 State, tribal, or local benefit programs.

7 “(C) Providing emergency financial aid
8 grants to students for unexpected expenses and
9 to meet basic needs.

10 “(D) Providing accelerated learning oppor-
11 tunities, including dual or concurrent enroll-
12 ment programs and early college high school
13 programs, and pathways to graduate and pro-
14 fessional degree programs, and reforming
15 course scheduling and credit awarding policies.

16 “(E) Reforming remedial and develop-
17 mental education.

18 “(F) Utilizing career pathways, including
19 through building capacity for career and tech-
20 nical education as defined in section 3 of the
21 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
22 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302), programs
23 of study as defined in such section, or degree
24 pathways.

1 “(G) Improving transfer pathways between
2 community colleges and four-year institutions of
3 higher education in the eligible State, or, in the
4 case of a Tribal College or University, between
5 the Tribal College or University and other insti-
6 tutions of higher education.

7 “(2) STATE ALLOCATION MINIMUMS WITH RE-
8 SPECT TO EVIDENCE TIERS.—An eligible State re-
9 ceiving a grant under this part shall use not less
10 than 30 percent of the grant funds for evidence
11 based reforms or practices that meet an evidence
12 tier defined in section 782E(2), of which at least
13 two-thirds shall be used for evidence-based reforms
14 or practices that meet evidence tier 1.

15 “(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PUR-
16 POSES.—An eligible State or Tribal College or University
17 that receives a grant under this part may use—

18 “(1) not more than 3 percent of such grant for
19 administrative purposes relating to the grant under
20 this part; and

21 “(2) not more than 3 percent of such grant to
22 evaluate the effectiveness of activities carried out
23 under this part.

24 **“SEC. 782E. DEFINITIONS.**

25 “‘In this part:

1 “(1) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ‘eligible
2 State’ means a State that has met the application
3 requirement for a grant under this part as described
4 in Sec. 782B and continues to meet the program re-
5 quirements for a grant under this part as described
6 in Sec. 782C.

7 “(2) EVIDENCE TIERS.—

8 “(A) EVIDENCE TIER 1.—The term ‘evi-
9 dence tier 1’, when used with respect to a re-
10 form or practice, means a reform or practice
11 that meets the criteria for receiving an expan-
12 sion grant from the education innovation and
13 research program under section 4611 of the El-
14 elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
15 (20 U.S.C. 7261), as determined by the Sec-
16 retary in accordance with such section.

17 “(B) EVIDENCE TIER 2.—The term ‘evi-
18 dence tier 2’, when used with respect to a re-
19 form or practice, means a reform that meets
20 the criteria for receiving a mid-phase grant
21 from the education innovation and research pro-
22 gram under section 4611 of the Elementary
23 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
24 U.S.C. 7261), as determined by the Secretary
25 in accordance with such section.

1 “(3) FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—
2 The term ‘first generation college student’ has the
3 meaning given the term in section 402A(h).

4 “(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
5 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
6 meaning given the term in section 101.

7 “(5) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
8 term ‘Tribal College or University’ has the meaning
9 given the term in section 316(b)(3).

10 **“SEC. 782F. SUNSET.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority to make grants
12 under this part shall expire at the end of award year
13 2029–2030.

14 “(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF GEPA CONTINGENT EX-
15 TENSION OF PROGRAMS.—Section 422 of the General
16 Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1226a) shall not
17 apply to this part.

18 **“SEC. 782G. APPROPRIATION.**

19 “‘In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is
20 appropriated for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in
21 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$300,000,000,
22 to remain available until September 30, 2030, for carrying
23 out this part.’”.

