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:

SEC. _____ COLLEGE RETENTION AND COMPLETION GRANTS PILOT PROGRAM.

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

“PART F—RETENTION AND COMPLETION GRANTS PILOT PROGRAM

“SEC. 782. RETENTION AND COMPLETION GRANTS.

“Beginning with award year 2023–2024, from amounts appropriated to carry out this part for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot grant program to make grants (which shall be known as ‘retention and completion grants’) to eligible States and Tribal Colleges and Universities to enable the eligible States and Tribal Colleges and Universities to carry out the activities described in section 782D.
“SEC. 782A. GRANT AMOUNTS.

“(a) RESERVATION.—From the amounts appropriated to carry out this part, the Secretary shall—

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

“(2) use the amount remaining after the allocation under paragraph (1) to award competitive grants to eligible States that have submitted applications under section 782B.

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

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

“SEC. 782B. APPLICATIONS.

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

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

“(i) how such eligible State will use grant funds to implement 1 or more reforms or practices described in section 782D(b)(1) at such institutions;

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

“(iii) annual implementation benchmarks that the eligible State will use to track progress in implementing such reforms or practices;

“(B) how such eligible State will increase support for the public institutions of higher education identified in accordance with paragraph (2)(B); and

“(C) the improvements the eligible State anticipates in student outcomes, including im-
provements in retention, completion, or transfer
rates or labor market outcomes, or a combina-
tion of such student outcomes, disaggregated by
student demographics including, at a minimum,
race, ethnicity, income, disability status, reme-
diation, and status as a first generation college
student;
“(2)(A) with respect to each State public insti-
tution of higher education—
“(i) the total per-student fund-
ing;
“(ii) the amount of per-student
funding that is from State-appropri-
ated funds; and
“(iii) the share of students at the
institution who are students of color,
low-income students, students with
disabilities, students in need of reme-
diation, or first generation college stu-
dents; and
“(B) an identification of public institutions of
higher education in the eligible State that received
less funding on a per-student basis as described in
clause (i) or (ii), or both, of subparagraph (A), and
are serving disproportionately high shares of stu-
ents of color, low-income students, students with
disabilities, students in need of remediation, or first
generation college students;

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

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

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

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

“(2) Propose to use a significant share of grant
funds to improve retention, transfer, and completion
rates and labor market outcomes among students of
color, low-income students, students with disabilities,
students in need of remediation, first generation col-
lege students, and other underserved student populations in such State.

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

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

“SEC. 782C. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

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

“(1) in meeting the annual implementation benchmarks included in the application of such eligible State under section 782B(a)(1)(A)(iii);

“(2) in increasing funding for the public institutions of higher education identified in accordance with section 782B(a)(2)(B), as included in the application of such eligible State under section 782B(a)(1)(B); and
“(3) in improving the student outcomes identified by the State under section 782B(a)(1)(C).

“(b) Eligibility for Benefits.—No individual shall be determined to be ineligible to receive benefits provided under this part (including services and other aid provided under this part) on the basis of citizenship, alienage, or immigration status.

“SEC. 782D. USES OF FUNDS.

“(a) General Requirement for States.—Except as provided in subsection (c), an eligible State shall use a grant under this part only to carry out activities described in the application for such year under section 782B(a)(1).

“(b) Evidence-based Institutional Reforms or Practices.—

“(1) In general.—An eligible State or Tribal College or University receiving a grant under this part shall, directly or in collaboration with institutions of higher education and other non-profit organizations, use the grant funds to implement one or more of the following evidence-based institutional reforms or practices:

“(A) Providing comprehensive academic, career, and student support services, including
mentoring, advising, case management services, or career pathway navigation.

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

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

“(D) Providing accelerated learning opportunities, including dual or concurrent enrollment programs and early college high school programs, and pathways to graduate and professional degree programs, and reforming course scheduling and credit awarding policies.

“(E) Reforming remedial and developmental education.

“(F) Utilizing career pathways, including through building capacity for career and technical education as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302), programs of study as defined in such section, or degree pathways.
“(G) Improving transfer pathways between community colleges and four-year institutions of higher education in the eligible State, or, in the case of a Tribal College or University, between the Tribal College or University and other institutions of higher education.

“(2) State allocation minimums with respect to evidence tiers.—An eligible State receiving a grant under this part shall use not less than 30 percent of the grant funds for evidence based reforms or practices that meet an evidence tier defined in section 782E(2), of which at least two-thirds shall be used for evidence-based reforms or practices that meet evidence tier 1.

“(c) Use of funds for administrative purposes.—An eligible State or Tribal College or University that receives a grant under this part may use—

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

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

“Sec. 782E. Definitions.

“In this part:
“(1) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ‘eligible State’ means a State that has met the application requirement for a grant under this part as described in Sec. 782B and continues to meet the program requirements for a grant under this part as described in Sec. 782C.

“(2) EVIDENCE TIERS.—

“(A) EVIDENCE TIER 1.—The term ‘evidence tier 1’, when used with respect to a reform or practice, means a reform or practice that meets the criteria for receiving an expansion grant from the education innovation and research program under section 4611 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7261), as determined by the Secretary in accordance with such section.

“(B) EVIDENCE TIER 2.—The term ‘evidence tier 2’, when used with respect to a reform or practice, means a reform that meets the criteria for receiving a mid-phase grant from the education innovation and research program under section 4611 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7261), as determined by the Secretary in accordance with such section.
“(3) FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—

The term ‘first generation college student’ has the meaning given the term in section 402A(h).

“(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101.

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

“SEC. 782F. SUNSET.

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

“(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF GEPA CONTINGENT EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.—Section 422 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1226a) shall not apply to this part.

“SEC. 782G. APPROPRIATION.

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