

**Legislation Impacting Higher Education & Student Affairs**  
**114<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Session – 2015**

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## [H.R. 5 - Student Success Act](#)

### **Rep. John Kline [R-MN-2]**

7/13/2015: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 147.

Major Action: Passed/agreed to in the House: recorded vote: 218 - 213 ([Roll no. 423](#)) on 7/8/2015. [7/22/2015]

11 Co-sponsors: Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4], Rep. Foxx, Virginia [R-NC-5], Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1], Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6], Rep. Byrne, Bradley [R-AL-1], Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32], Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-50], Rep. Heck, Joseph J. [R-NV-3], Rep. Guthrie, Brett [R-KY-2], Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12], Rep. Curbelo, Carlos [R-FL-26].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes.

#### **CRS Summary**

See link.

## [S. 60 - A bill to prohibit aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States from being eligible for postsecondary education benefits that are not available to all citizens and nationals of the United States.](#)

### **Sen. David Vitter [R-LA]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

No action. [7/22/2015]

0 Co-sponsors.

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to prohibit unlawful aliens from being eligible for any postsecondary education benefit unless every citizen and national of this country is eligible to receive that benefit in no less of an amount, duration, or scope. (This replaces a prohibition against a state's offering unlawful aliens postsecondary benefits on the basis of their residence in the state that are more generous than those offered citizens or nationals of this country without regard to their state residence.)

Allows any citizen or national who is enrolled at a postsecondary educational institution that is alleged to have violated that prohibition to bring a civil action against any state official overseeing the institution to obtain appropriate relief, attorneys' fees, and court costs.

## [S. 75 - Education Tax Fraud Prevention Act](#)

### **Sen. David Vitter [R-LA]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

No action. [7/22/2015]

0 Co-sponsors.

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to require: (1) individuals who claim a tax credit for qualified tuition and related expenses under the Hope Scholarship or the Lifetime Learning tax credit to include their social security numbers on their tax returns, and (2) the educational institutions of such individuals to provide their employer identification numbers.

## [S. 85 - Repay Act of 2015](#)

### **Sen. Angus King, Jr. [I-ME]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

No action. [7/22/2015]

11 Co-sponsors: Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC], Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA], Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL], Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME], **Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]**, Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH], Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV], Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH], Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE], Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS], Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV] .

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a simplified income-driven repayment program for students who become new borrowers of William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans (DLs) on or after July 1, 2015. [More at the link]

## [S. 98 – STEM Jobs Act of 2015](#)

### **Sen. David Vitter [R-LA]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

No Action. [7/22/2015]

0 Co-sponsors.

#### **Bill Purpose**

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to promote innovation, investment, and research in the United States, to eliminate the diversity immigrant program, and for other purposes.

#### **CRS Summary**

At the link above.

## [H.R. 100 - Stopping Abusive Student Loan Collection Practices in Bankruptcy Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. John Conyers, Jr. [D-MI-13]**

Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law.

No action. [7/22/2015]

2 Co-sponsors: Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9], Rep. Johnson, Henry “Hank,” Jr. [D-GA-4].

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends federal bankruptcy law to allow an individual whose student loan debt is discharged due to undue hardship to recover the costs of, and a reasonable attorney's fee for, the discharge proceeding if the court finds that the position of the creditor was not substantially justified.

## [S. 108 - Financial Aid Simplification & Transparency Act](#)

### **Sen. Lamar Alexander [R-TN]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]



8 Co-sponsors: Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO], Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC], Sen. King, Angus S. Jr. [I-ME], Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA], Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ], Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL], Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT], Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA].

CRS Summary too long to print here. See link above.

## [S.Res. 143 - A resolution supporting efforts to ensure that students have access to debt-free higher education.](#)

### **Sen. Brian Schatz [D-HI]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

19 co-sponsors: Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY], Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA], Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI], Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ], Sen. Murphy, Christopher S. [D-CT], Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI], Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH], Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI], Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR], Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM], Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA], Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI], Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI], Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA], Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN], Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY], Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT], Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI], Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH].

Resolution text available at the link above.

### **CRS Summary**

Expresses support for efforts to:

- ensure that all students have access to debt-free higher education upon graduation from public institutions of higher education;
- provide support to states to make increased investments in higher education that will result in lower tuition and costs for students;
- increase financial aid to help students afford attending college without taking on debt;
- encourage innovation by states and institutions of higher education to cut costs for students and make college more affordable by increasing efficiency and enabling speedy and less-costly degree completion; and
- reduce the burden of existing student loan debt.

[S.Res. 144 - A resolution supporting the mission and goals of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of, and services available to assist, victims and survivors of crime in the United States.](#)

**Sen. Chuck Grassley [R-IA]**

Was not referred to a committee.

**Major Action:** Passed by the Senate by Unanimous Consent on 4/22/2015. Note: S.Res. measures do not go to the House for approval. **This is the final action on this measure.** [7/22/2015]

6 co-sponsors: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT], Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT], Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY], Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS], Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA], Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA].

**CRS Summary**

Expresses support for the mission and goals of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing individual and public awareness of: (1) the impact of crime on victims, survivors, and their families; (2) the challenges to achieving justice for victims and survivors of crime and their families; and (3) the many solutions to meet such challenges. Recognizes that crime victims and survivors and their families should be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

[S. 153 - I-Squared Act of 2015 \(Immigration Innovation\)](#)

**Sen. Orrin Hatch [R-UT]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

No action. [7/22/2015]

13 co-sponsors: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN], Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL], Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE], Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ], Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT], Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV], Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ], Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH], Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO], Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO], Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME], Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT], Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL].

**Bill Purpose**

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes.

### **CRS Summary**

Available at link above.

## **[H.R. 210 - Student Worker Exemption Act of 2015](#)**

### **Rep. Mark Meadows [R-NC-11]**

Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

No action. [6/1/2015]

29 co-sponsors: Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5], Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13], Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3], Rep. Ellmers, Renee L. [R-NC-2], Rep. Hanna, Richard L. [R-NY-22], Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3], Rep. Murphy, Patrick [D-FL-18], Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8], **Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4]**, Rep. Roskam, Peter J. [R-IL-6], Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10], Rep. Rice, Tom [R-SC-7], Rep. Nunnelee, Alan [R-MS-1], Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6], Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4], Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9], Rep. Schock, Aaron [R-IL-18], Rep. Jolly, David W. [R-FL-13], Rep. Curbelo, Carlos [R-FL-26], Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24], Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5], Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2], Rep. Poliquin, Bruce [R-ME-2], Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6], Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36], Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6], Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2], Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12], Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22].

### **CRS Summary**

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude students who are employed by an institution of higher education (IHE) and carrying a full-time academic workload at the IHE from being counted as full-time employees in calculating the IHE's shared responsibility regarding health care coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

## **[S. 227 - Strengthening Education through Research Act](#)**

### **Sen. Lamar Alexander [R-TN]**

Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 13.

**Major Action: Passed committee on 2/4/2015.** [7/22/2015]

1 co-sponsor: **Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]**.

### **Bill Purpose**

To strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

**CRS Summary**

See link above.

**[H.R. 242 - All-Year ACCESS Act](#)**

**Rep. Loretta Sanchez [D-CA-46]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

No action. [7/22/2015]

69 co-sponsors: Including Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3], Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11].

**CRS Summary**

Directs the Secretary of Education to award an additional Pell Grant to an eligible student who: (1) has received a Pell Grant for an award year, and (2) is enrolled in a program of study for one or more additional payment periods during the same award year that are not otherwise covered by the Pell Grant.

Requires such a student to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis for a period of more than one academic year, or more than the equivalent of two semesters, during a single award year.

Limits the total amount of the Pell Grants awarded to such student for the award year to 150% of the maximum Pell Grant for such award year.

**[S. Res. 267 - A resolution expressing support for the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program.](#)**

**Sen. Tammy Baldwin [D-WI]**

Assigned to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee on September 24, 2015, which will consider it before possibly sending it on to the House or Senate as a whole.

27 co-sponsors.

**CRS Summary**

9/24/2015--Introduced.

Expresses the strong support of the Senate for the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program in order to provide educational opportunities to future generations of students who need low-cost financing to make their dreams of higher education possible.

[H.R. 275 - To establish a commission to identify and examine issues of national concern related to the conduct of intercollegiate athletics, to make recommendations for the resolution of the issues, and for other purposes.](#)

**Rep. Bobby Rush [D-IL-1]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

No action. [7/22/2015]

4 Co-sponsors: Rep. Barton, Joe [R-TX-6], Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3], Rep. Dent, Charles W. [R-PA-15], Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8], Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14].

**CRS Summary**

Establishes the Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics to review, analyze, and report to the President and Congress on the following issues related to intercollegiate athletics:

- the interaction of athletics and academics,
- the financing of intercollegiate athletics,
- the recruitment and retention of student athletes,
- oversight and governance practices,
- health and safety protections for student athletes,
- due process and other protections related to the enforcement of student athlete rules and regulations, and
- any other issues the Commission considers relevant to understanding the state of intercollegiate athletics.

[S. 306 - Enhancing Educational Opportunities for all Students Act](#)

**Sen. Mike Lee [R-UT]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

No action. [7/22/2015]

2 Co-sponsors: Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX], Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID].

**CRS Summary**

Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow a state educational agency to allocate grant funds among local educational agencies based on the

number of eligible children (children age 5 to 17 from a family with an income below the poverty level) enrolled in the public schools and the state-accredited private schools within each local agency's geographic jurisdiction.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) allow payment of home school expenses from Coverdell education savings accounts; (2) remove the dollar limitation on contributions to Coverdell education savings accounts and require such accounts to provide adequate safeguards to prevent contributions from exceeding the amount necessary to provide for the qualified education expenses of the account beneficiary; and (3) allow tax-exempt qualified tuition programs (529 tuition programs) to pay qualified pre-kindergarten, elementary, and secondary education expenses.

## [S. 335 - A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.](#)

### **Sen. Chuck Grassley [R-IA]**

Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 97.

**Reported out of committee unanimously on 4/29/2015.** See committee [report No. 114-56](#). See Grassley Press Release [here](#). [7/22/2015]

20 co-sponsors: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA], Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC], Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA], Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS], Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD], Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC], Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH], Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA], Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY], Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME], Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY], Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE], Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO], Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS], Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS], Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME], Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH], Sen. Toomey, Pat [R-PA], Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK], Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN].

### **CRS Summary**

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to qualified tuition programs (529 plans), to: (1) make permanent the allowance for payment of computer technology and equipment expenses from a 529 plan if such technology and equipment is to be used primarily by the plan beneficiary (currently, use is allowed by the beneficiary and the beneficiary's family); (2) eliminate the requirement that distributions to a 529 plan be aggregated for purposes of determining the amount includible in a taxpayer's income; and (3) allow a tax-free recontribution to a 529 plan of amounts refunded to a student who withdraws from an educational institution if the recontribution is made not later than 60 days after the date of such refund and does not exceed the refunded amount.

## [H.R. 449 - Discharge Student Loans in Bankruptcy Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. John Delaney [D-MD-6]**

Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial And Antitrust Law.

No action. [7/22/2014]

9 co-sponsors: Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1], Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14], Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20], Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4], Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13], Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5], Rep. Jolly, David W. [R-FL-13], Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19], Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9].

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends the federal bankruptcy code to allow the discharge in bankruptcy of an educational loan or an obligation to repay funds received as an educational benefit, scholarship, or stipend. (Currently, those debts are dischargeable only if excepting them from discharge would impose an undue hardship on the debtor and the debtor's dependents.)

## [H.R. 467 – STEM Opportunities Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson [D-TX-30]**

Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology.

No action. [7/22/2015]

33 co-sponsors.

#### **Bill Purpose**

To direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes.

#### **CRS Summary**

Too long to print here. See link above.

## [S. 470 - Safeguarding Classrooms Hurt by ObamaCare's Obligatory Levies](#)

### **Sen. John Thune [R-SD]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

No action. [7/22/2015]

5 co-sponsors: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH], Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA], Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH], Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC], Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD].

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude any elementary or secondary school, state or local educational agency, and institution of higher education from the definition of "applicable large employer" for purposes of the employer mandate to provide health care coverage for employees.

Directs the Secretary of Education to study and report on the impact of the employer health insurance mandate on educational agencies and institutions before and after the enactment of this Act.

## [H.R. 509 - Student Loan Interest Deduction Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. Charles Rangel [D-NY-13]**

Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

No action. [7/22/2015]

58 co-sponsors including Rep. Fudge, Marcia [D-OH-11], Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben [D-TX-15].

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) increase the maximum tax deduction for interest paid on any qualified education loan to \$5,000 (\$10,000 for married couples filing a joint tax return), and (2) repeal the limitation on such deduction based upon modified adjusted gross income.

## [H.R. 520 - Student Job Protection Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. Michael Turner [R-OH-10]**

Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

No action. [7/22/2014]



0 co-sponsors.

**CRS Summary**

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude students who are employed by an institution of higher education (IHE) and carrying what the school considers a full-time academic workload at the IHE from being counted as full-time employees in calculating the IHE's shared responsibility regarding health care coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

**[H.R. 529 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans](#)**

**Rep. Lynn Jenkins [R-KS-2]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

**Major Action:** Passed the House on 2/25/2015, vote 401-20 ([Roll no. 90](#)). [7/22/2015]

38 co-sponsors including [Rep. Kline, John \[R-MN-2\]](#).

**CRS Summary**

This bill makes changes to the rules for qualified tuition programs (known as 529 plans).

(Sec. 2) The Internal Revenue Code is amended to allow payments from 529 plans for the purchase of computer or peripheral equipment, computer software, or Internet access and related services to be used primarily by a 529 plan beneficiary while enrolled in an eligible educational institution.

(Sec. 3) The requirement that distributions from a 529 plan be aggregated for purposes of determining the amount includible in a taxpayer's income is eliminated.

(Sec. 4) Students who receive a refund from an eligible educational institution can recontribute such refund to a 529 plan without tax consequences if the recontribution is made not later than 60 days after the date of such refund and does not exceed the refunded amount.

**[S. 590 - The Campus Accountability and Safety Act - \(CASA\) \(See also: H.R. 1310\)](#)**

**Sen. Claire McCaskill [D-MO] (with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand [D-NY])**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

32 co-sponsors.

**Bill Purpose**

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

**CRS Summary**

Too long to print here. See link above.

**[S. 649 - Higher Education Reform and Opportunity Act of 2015](#)**

**Sen. Mike Lee [R-UT]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

4 co-sponsors: Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID], Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX], Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT], Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA].

**Bill Purpose**

To amend the eligibility requirements for funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

CRS Summary too long to print here. See link above.

**[H.R. 747 - Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Improvement Act](#)**

**Rep. Elijah Cummings [D-MD-7]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

No action. [7/22/2015]

1 co-sponsor: Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51].

**Bill Purpose**

To establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee.

CRS Summary too long to print here. See link above.

## [H.R. 769 - Safeguarding Classrooms Hurt by ObamaCare's Obligatory Levies](#)

### **Rep. Luke Messer [R-IN-6]**

Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

15 co-sponsors: Rep. Kline, John [R-MN-2], Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1], Rep. Walberg, Tim [R-MI-7], Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4], Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-50], Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2], Rep. Bishop, Rob [R-UT-1], Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5], Rep. Guthrie, Brett [R-KY-2], Rep. Byrne, Bradley [R-AL-1], Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5], Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8], Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4], Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12], Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain educational institutions from the employer health insurance mandate, and for other purposes.

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude any elementary or secondary school, state or local educational agency, and institution of higher education from the definition of "applicable large employer" for purposes of the employer mandate to provide health care coverage for employees.

Directs the Secretary of Education to study and report on the impact of the employer health insurance mandate on educational agencies and institutions before and after the enactment of this Act.

## [S. 840 - Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights](#)

### **Sen. Richard Durbin [D-IL]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

2 co-sponsors: Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI], Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

CRS Summary too long to print here. See link above.

[S. 912 - An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude payments received under the Work Colleges Program from gross income, including payments made from institutional funds.](#)

**Sen. Orrin Hatch [R-UT]**

Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 45.

**Major Action:** Passed committee on 4/14/2015. [Committee Report here.](#) [7/22/2015]

0 co-sponsors.

**Bill Purpose**

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude payments received under the Work Colleges Program from gross income, including payments made from institutional funds.

**CRS Summary**

(Sec. 1) Amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from gross income payments received by a student under a comprehensive student work-learning-service program operated by a work college. Makes this amendment applicable to amounts received in taxable years beginning after the enactment date of this Act.

(Sec. 2) Amends the Internal Revenue Code to increase from 30% to 35% the rate of the continuous levy on payments to Medicare providers and suppliers for unpaid taxes. Makes this amendment applicable to payments made after 180 days after the enactment date of this Act.

[H.R. 921 - Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act of 2015](#)

**Rep. Brett Guthrie [R-KY-2]**

Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Committee on Judiciary.

No action. [7/22/2015]

71 co-sponsors.

**Bill Purpose**

To provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

**CRS Summary**

Provides that for purposes of medical professional liability insurance or civil and criminal

malpractice liability determinations, a physician or athletic trainer (covered sports medicine professional) who is authorized to practice medicine in a state (primary state) and who provides medical services to an athlete or athletic team in a state where such professional is not authorized to practice (secondary state) shall be deemed to have provided such medical services in the primary state, provided that prior to providing the covered medical services such professional has disclosed the nature and extent of such services to the entity that provides such professional with medical professional liability insurance in the primary state.

## [H.R. 937 - Fast Track to College Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. Ruben Hinojosa [D-TX-15]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, and the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

No action. [7/22/2015]

1 co-sponsor: Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual enrollment programs.

The purpose of this Act is to increase secondary school graduation rates and the percentage of students who complete a recognized postsecondary credential by the age of 26, including among low-income students and students from other populations underrepresented in higher education.

## [H.R. 938 - Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act Reauthorization of 2015](#)

### **Rep. David Jolly [R-FL-13]**

Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

5 Co-sponsors: Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7], Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9], Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3], Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2], Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

### **Other**

Program authorized. -- The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, shall establish a research, training, and technical assistance resource center to provide appropriate information, training, and technical assistance to States, political subdivisions of States, federally recognized Indian tribes, tribal organizations, institutions of higher education, public organizations, or private nonprofit organizations concerning the prevention of suicide among all ages, particularly among groups that are at high risk for suicide.

CRS Summary too long to print here. See link above.

## **[H.R. 970- Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act](#)**

### **Rep. Virginia Foxx [R-NC-5]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

No action. [7/22/2015]

36 co-sponsors, including: Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20], Rep. Kline, John [R-MN-2], Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5], Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8], Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2], Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-3], Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3], Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4], Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4], Rep. Comstock, Barbara [R-VA-10], Rep. Stutzman, Marlin A. [R-IN-3], Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6], Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8], Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1], Rep. Heck, Joseph J. [R-NV-3], Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8], Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6], Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6], Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12], Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5], Rep. Murphy, Tim [R-PA-18], Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6], Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7], Rep. Neugebauer, Randy [R-TX-19], Rep. Roby, Martha [R-AL-2], Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1], Rep. Love, Mia B. [R-UT-4], Rep. Thornberry, Mac [R-TX-13], Rep. Bishop, Rob [R-UT-1].

### **Bill Purpose**

To prohibit the Secretary of Education from engaging in regulatory overreach with regard to institutional eligibility under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes. Repeals Gainful Employment, Definition of a Credit Hour and State Accreditation.

CRS Summary too long to print here. See link above.

## [S. 1002 - A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.](#)

### **Sen. Benjamin Cardin [D-MD]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

No action. [7/22/2015]

7 Co-sponsors: **Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]**, Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE], Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID], Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO], Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS], Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS], Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS], Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV], Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow tax-exempt charitable or educational organizations to make collegiate housing and infrastructure improvement grants to certain tax-exempt social clubs (e.g., college fraternities and sororities) which apply such grants to their collegiate housing property.

## [H.R. 1020 - STEM Education Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. Lamar Smith [R-TX-21]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

05/20/2015 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

**Major Action: Passed the House on 2/25/2015**, vote 412 - 8 ([Roll no. 88](#)). [7/22/2015]

9 Co-sponsors: Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5], Rep. Comstock, Barbara [R-VA-10], Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3], Rep. Moolenaar, John R. [R-MI-4], Rep. Hultgren, Randy [R-IL-14], Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8], Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27], Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1], Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

CRS Summary too long to print here. See link above.

[S. 1059 - A bill to provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid.](#)

**Sen. Mazie Hirono [D-HI]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

1 co-sponsor: Sen. Durbin, Richard [D-IL].

**Bill Purpose**

To provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid.

[S. 1062 - A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.](#)

**Sen. Mazie Hirono [D-HI]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

6 co-sponsors: Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI], Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA], Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY], Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY], **Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]**, Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN].

**Bill Purpose**

To improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

[S. 1071 - A bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to expand the amount available for victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and other crimes, and for other purposes.](#)

**Sen. Pat Toomey [R-PA]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

No action. [7/22/2015]

5 co-sponsors: Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH], Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO], Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID], Sen. Corker, Bob [R-TN], Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT].

**CRS Summary**

Amends the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to require that, on and after October 1, 2015:



(1) the amount available for expenditure from the Crime Victims Fund for a fiscal year shall be equal to the entire amount in the Fund; and (2) the difference between the amount Congress makes available for expenditure from the Fund for a fiscal year and the average of the annual sums deposited in the Fund during the fiscal years that are four years, three years, and two years prior to the current one shall not count for purposes of scorekeeping under rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217.

## [S. 1102 - A bill to provide for institutional risk-sharing in the Federal student loan programs.](#)

### **Sen. Jack Reed [D-RI]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

3 co-sponsors: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA], Sen. Durbin, Richard [D-IL], Sen. Murphy, Christopher S. [D-CT].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To provide for institutional risk-sharing in the Federal student loan programs.

#### **CRS Summary**

See link.

## [H.R. 1119 - Research and Development Efficiency Act](#)

### **Rep. Barbara Comstock [R-VA-10]**

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**Major Action:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. Reported by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. [H. Rept. 114-121](#). [7/22/2015]

3 co-sponsors: Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30], Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21], Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

#### **CRS Summary**

Requires the Director of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to establish a working

group under the authority of the National Science and Technology Council that includes the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Makes the working group responsible for reviewing federal regulations affecting research and research universities and making recommendations on how to: (1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative federal regulations and reporting requirements; and (2) minimize the regulatory burden on U.S. institutions of higher education performing federally funded research while maintaining accountability for federal tax dollars.

## [S. 1128 - A bill to establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Program.](#)

### **Sen. Debbie Stabenow [D-MI]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

0 co-sponsors.

#### **Bill Purpose**

To establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Program.

#### **CRS Summary**

See link.

## [S. 1177 - Every Child Achieves Act of 2015](#)

### **Sen. Lamar Alexander [R-TN]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

**Major Action:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 81 - 17. [Record Vote Number: 249](#). 7/21/2015 – Received in the House. [7/22/2015]

0 co-sponsors.

#### **Bill Purpose**

To reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

#### **CRS Summary**

This bill reauthorizes and amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The bill addresses issues such as accountability and testing requirements,

distribution and requirements for grants, fiscal accountability requirements, and the evaluation of teachers.

The bill provides states with increased flexibility and responsibility for developing accountability systems, deciding how federally required tests should be weighed, selecting additional measures of student and school performance, and implementing teacher evaluation systems.

It includes grants for providing language instruction educational programs, improving low-performing schools, and developing programs for American Indian and Alaska Native students. The bill provides rural school districts with increased flexibility in using federal funding. It also revises the Impact Aid formula.

The bill requires school districts to consult stakeholders in planning and implementing programs to improve student safety, health, well-being, and academic achievement.

It combines two existing charter school programs into one program that includes grants for high-quality charter schools, facilities financing assistance, and replication and expansion.

The bill provides states with flexibility in meeting maintenance of effort requirements for state and local education funding to supplement federal assistance.

The bill prohibits the Department of Education from imposing certain requirements on states or school districts seeking waivers from federal laws.

It provides that ESEA dollars may be used to improve early childhood education programs and specifies requirements to ensure that homeless youth have access to all services provided by the states and school districts.

## [H.R. 1573 - Higher Education and Employment Transparency Act](#)

### **Rep. Andre Carson [D-IN-7]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

0 co-sponsors.

#### **Bill Purpose**

To require institutions of higher education to provide students with information from the Occupational Employment Statistics program and the Occupational Outlook Handbook of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and for other purposes.

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to make

publicly available on the College Navigator website the employment information that schools who are participating in that Act's title IV (Student Assistance) programs are required to provide to prospective and enrolled students.

Requires those schools to supplement that employment information by indicating whether or not the jobs their graduates obtain are paid jobs or require any postsecondary education.

Requires those schools to include on their websites, and the Secretary to include on the College Navigator website, a link to the appropriate section of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website that provides information from the Occupational Employment Statistics program and the Occupational Outlook Handbook of the BLS.

## [S. 1787 - Full-Service Community Schools Act of 2015](#)

### **Sen. Sherrod Brown [D-OH]**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

No action. [7/22/2015]

1 co-sponsor: Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To amend title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a full-service community schools grant program.

#### **CRS Summary**

See link.

## [H.R. 1806 - America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. Lamar Smith [R-TX-21]**

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**Major Action:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 217 - 205 ([Roll No. 258](#)). Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. [H. Rept. 114-107, Part I](#). Supplemental report filed by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, [H. Rept. 114-107, Part II](#). [7/22/2015]

10 co-sponsors: Rep. Lucas, Frank D. [R-OK-3], Rep. Comstock, Barbara [R-VA-10], Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14], Rep. Moolenaar, John R. [R-MI-4], Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4], Rep. Hultgren, Randy [R-IL-14], Rep. Knight, Stephen [R-CA-25], Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36], Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11], Rep. Bridenstine, Jim [R-OK-1].

### **Bill Purpose**

To provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes.

### **CRS Summary**

See link.

## **[H.R. 1833 - FAFSA for All Act](#)**

### **Rep. Marc Veasey [D-TX-33]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

37 co-sponsors including [Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. \[D-OH-11\]](#), [Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben \[D-TX-15\]](#).

### **Bill Purpose**

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include guidance on how dependent students with parents without SSNs may obtain Federal student assistance.

### **CRS Summary**

Amends title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to include on the same website that is used to provide students with the electronic version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) questions to determine, for title IV eligibility purposes, whether:

- a dependent student is a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States or is here for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident; and
- the parents of a dependent student have a valid social security number.

Requires that website to also include:

- detailed guidance on how dependent students who satisfy those immigration requirements but whose parents do not have a valid social security number may obtain student assistance under title IV, and
- an online tool that allows those students to upload the documents they need to receive such assistance.

[H.R. 1928 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the coverage of qualified tuition programs and increase the limitation on contributions to Coverdell education savings accounts.](#)

**Rep. Patrick McHenry [R-NC-10]**

Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

No action. [7/22/2015]

5 co-sponsors: Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11], Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9], Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8], Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7], Rep. Walker, Mark [R-NC-6].

**Bill Purpose**

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the coverage of qualified tuition programs and increase the limitation on contributions to Coverdell education savings accounts.

**CRS Summary**

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow the payment of qualified elementary and secondary education expenses from a tax-exempt qualified tuition program (known as a 529 plan). (Currently, such plans only pay qualified higher education expenses.) Included as qualified elementary and secondary education expenses are expenses for tuition, fees, academic tutoring, special needs services, books, supplies, and computer technology or equipment.

The bill also increases from \$2,000 to \$15,000 the limit on the amount that may be contributed to a tax-exempt Coverdell education savings account. The new contribution limit is adjusted for inflation in each taxable year beginning after 2015.

[H.R. 1956 - To improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.](#)

**Rep. Ruben Hinojosa [D-TX-15]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

23 co-sponsors: Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3], Rep. Sanchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38], Rep. Butterfield, G. K. [D-NC-1], Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27], Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3], Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11], Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32], Rep. Cuellar, Henry [D-TX-28], Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34], Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30], Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29], Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5],

Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7], Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7], Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4], Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [D-AZ-3], Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8], Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51], Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7], Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16], Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4], Rep. Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [D-MP-At Large], Rep. Takai, Mark [D-HI-1].

**Bill Purpose**

To improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

[No CRS Summary available – 7/22/2015]

**[H.R. 1966 - To authorize the President to reestablish the Civilian Conservation Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed citizens of the United States through the performance of useful public work, and for other purposes.](#)**

**Rep. Marcy Kaptur [D-OH-9]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

6 co-sponsors: Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13], Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large], Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1], Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4], Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2], Rep. Takai, Mark [D-HI-1].

**CRS Summary**

Authorizes the President, in order to relieve widespread unemployment, restore depleted natural resources in the United States, and advance public works programs, to establish a Civilian Conservation Corps to employ unemployed or underemployed U.S. citizens in the construction, maintenance, and carrying on of works of a public nature, such as forestation of U.S. and state lands, prevention of forest fires, floods, and soil erosion, and construction and repair of National Park System paths and trails.

Authorizes the President to extend Corps activities to state- and private-owned lands to prevent and control forest fires and floods and attacks of forest tree pests and diseases.

Requires the President, based on certain criteria, to give preference to the employment of additional persons in the Corps in the following order: (1) unemployed Armed Forces veterans (including Reserve members); (2) unemployed U.S. citizens who have exhausted their unemployment compensation; (3) unemployed U.S. citizens who are eligible for unemployment compensation immediately before employment in the Corps, including any additional compensation or extended compensation; and (4) other unemployed or underemployed U.S. citizens.

Authorizes the President to provide housing and transportation for Corps employees.  
Prohibits discrimination in the hiring of Corps employees.

## [H.R. 2004 - To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for more effective online education verification metrics.](#)

### **Rep. Bradley Byrne [R-AL-1]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

0 co-sponsors.

#### **Bill Purpose**

Amends title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require recognized accrediting agencies or associations that evaluate the quality of distance or correspondence education programs to require those programs to have a secure login and passcode for Internet coursework.

#### **CRS Summary**

Amends title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require recognized accrediting agencies or associations that evaluate the quality of distance or correspondence education programs to require those programs to have a secure login and passcode for Internet coursework.

## [H.R. 2056 - To establish a grant program to promote the development of career education programs in computer science in secondary and postsecondary education.](#)

### **Rep. Tony Cardenas [D-CA-29]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

6 co-sponsors: Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17], Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14], Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1], Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17], Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25], Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2].

#### **CRS Summary**

This bill directs the Department of Education to award competitive grants to consortia composed of at least one local educational agency, at least one institution of higher education (IHE), and community representatives for the development and operation of four- or six-year computer science career education programs.



Each such career education program must include the development of a computer science program for both secondary and postsecondary education that:

- is aligned with rigorous computer science standards for kindergarten through grade 12 computer science education;
- links secondary schools and IHEs through non-duplicative sequences of courses in computer science career fields;
- uses, if appropriate and available, experiential or work-based learning in collaboration with local or regional employers;
- uses educational technology and distance learning to involve all members of the consortium more fully in the development and operation of the programs;
- aligns with industry needs in the state or region; and
- creates innovative opportunities for students that lead to attainment of industry-recognized credentials.

A program must also provide: (1) professional development for teachers, (2) career and academic counseling for students, and (3) equal access to the full range of career education programs to members of underrepresented groups and special populations.

## [H.R. 2082 - To provide for loan forgiveness for STEM teachers, and for other purposes.](#)

### **Rep. Eric Swalwell [D-CA-15]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

No action. [7/22/2015]

7 co-sponsors: Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1], Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36], Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7], Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33], Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11], Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1], Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12].

#### **Bill Purpose**

To provide for loan forgiveness for STEM teachers, and for other purposes.

#### **CRS Summary**

This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) to require the Department of Education to forgive student loan obligations of borrowers employed as full-time teachers of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) in elementary or secondary schools in which the number of low-income children exceeds a certain percentage.

Portions of the student loan debt, including interest, will be forgiven on the basis of years of service, with 100% forgiven for five years of teacher service.

The bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow: (1) an increased tax deduction for expenses by elementary and secondary school teachers for STEM education supplies; (2) a tax credit for the employment of STEM interns; and (3) a tax credit for employment of individuals who participated in an apprenticeship program in a STEM field, with the amount determined according to the degree of completion of a program.

Beginning with FY2016, an institution of higher education must use at least 7% of federal work-study funds granted under HEA to compensate students employed in STEM fields.

## [H.R. 2089 - To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to lower the cost of college education by establishing pilot programs to expand student access to digital course materials.](#)

### **Rep. Suzan DelBene [D-WA-1]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

2 co-sponsors: Rep. Hanna, Richard L. [R-NY-22], Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]

#### **Bill Purpose**

The purpose of this Act is to identify savings in the cost of higher education for undergraduate students by funding pilot programs to expand student access to digital academic course materials.

#### **CRS Summary**

This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize the Department of Education (ED) to award competitive grants to up to 10 institutions of higher education (IHEs) to conduct pilot programs to reduce the cost of attendance for undergraduate students by expanding their access to digital course materials.

A preference is given to applications that demonstrate a commitment to serving disadvantaged students.

Grantees must make digital course materials available to undergraduate students in at least two different academic departments.

Grant funds may be used to:

- purchase and maintain the electronic equipment or software their pilot programs need;
- purchase and maintain the digital and online content that instructors or students will use;

- hire staff to administer their pilot programs, with priority given to hiring enrolled undergraduate students;
- build or acquire extra storage space for pilot program equipment;
- support professional development; and
- revise and adapt curricula as needed to implement the IHEs' pilot programs.

[H.R. 2092 - To require operators that provide online and similar services to educational agencies or institutions to protect the privacy and security of personally identifiable information, and for other purposes.](#)

**Rep. Luke Messer [R-IN-6]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

1 co-sponsor: Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2].

**Bill Purpose**

To require operators that provide online and similar services to educational agencies or institutions to protect the privacy and security of personally identifiable information, and for other purposes.

**CRS Summary**

Too long to print here. See link above.

[S. 2098 - To improve the determination of cohort default rates and provide for enhanced civil penalties, to ensure personal liability of owners, officers, and executives of institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.](#)

**Sen. Christopher Murphy [D-CT]**

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. [9/29/2015]

4 co-sponsors: Sen. Durbin, Richard [D-IL], Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA], Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH], Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

## CRS Summary

In progress

[S. 2099 - To provide for the establishment of a mechanism to allow borrowers of Federal student loans to refinance their loans, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to employer payment of interest on certain refinanced student loans, and for other purposes.](#)

### **Sen. Kelly Ayotte [R-NH]**

Referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

1 cosponsor: Sen. Shelley Capito [R-WV]

[H.R. 2224 - To establish a pilot program to promote public-private partnerships among apprenticeships or other job training programs, local educational agencies, and community colleges, and for other purposes.](#)

### **Rep. Rick Larsen [D-WA-2]**

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

No action. [7/22/2015]

2 co-sponsors: Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7], Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20].

## CRS Summary

Directs the Secretary of Education to award grants to 10 eligible entities (partnerships among a local educational agency (LEA), a community college, and a state apprentice program or a joint-labor management training program) to carry out a program for students to:

- take science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses and STEM-focused Career and Technical Education courses and other courses during grades 11 and 12 at a secondary school served by the LEA that prepare them for community college;

- enroll in a course of study related to the manufacturing field at the community college upon graduating from the secondary school; and
- enroll, for a two-year period, in the state apprenticeship program or the joint-labor management training program upon receiving an associate's degree from the community college.

## [H.R. 3594: Higher Education Extension Act of 2015](#)

### **Rep. Mike Bishop [R-MI-8]**

Referred to Committee on House Education and the Workforce.

[9/28/2015] Passed House.

17 Cosponsors: Pocan, Mark [D-WI2], Barletta, Lou [R-PA11], Byrne, Bradley [R-AL1], Clark, Katherine [D-MA5], Conyers, John [D-MI13], DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA11], Foxx, Virginia [R-NC5], Grothman, Glenn [R-WI6], Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA3], Hinojosa, Rubén [D-TX15], Kline, John [R-MN2], Messer, Luke [R-IN6], Schakowsky, Janice “Jan” [D-IL9], Scott, Robert “Bobby” [D-VA3], Slaughter, Louise [D-NY25], Stefanik, Elise [R-NY21], Thompson, Glenn [R-PA5]

#### **CRS Summary**

9/24/2015--Introduced.

#### Higher Education Extension Act of 2015

This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend by one year, through FY2016, the term of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

The legislation extends the authority of institutions of higher education (IHEs) to make loans to new borrowers under the Federal Perkins Loan program through September 30, 2016. IHEs may continue to disburse Perkins Loans through March 31, 2018, to enable students to continue or complete an academic program if the student received a Perkins loan prior to October 1, 2016, and the student has exhausted Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

The bill prohibits any further automatic extensions of the Perkins Loan program.

It also prohibits authorization of additional appropriations for the Federal Perkins Loan program beyond FY2015.

Beginning October 1, 2016, each participating IHE must pay to the Department of Education a certain portion of: (1) the federal share of the balance of its Perkins Loan

funds; and (2) the Perkins student loan payments, including principal and interest, received by the institution.

The bill extends by one year, through FY2016, the term of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance.