

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4554

To establish a program under which employees of the legislative branch may be reimbursed for the costs of graduate school tuition and fees, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2002

Mr. MEEKS of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To establish a program under which employees of the legislative branch may be reimbursed for the costs of graduate school tuition and fees, 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 “Dual Incentive Edu-
5 cation Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRADUATE STUDY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR CER-**
7 **TAIN LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each employing office
9 in the legislative branch may make payments to an eligible

1 employee of the office to reimburse the employee for tui-
2 tion and fees paid by the employee to an institution of
3 higher education during a semester for enrollment in a
4 program of post-baccalaureate study leading to a graduate
5 degree.

6 (b) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The amount of a pay-
7 ment made to an eligible employee under this Act shall
8 be equal to the amount of tuition and fees paid by the
9 employee to the institution of higher education for the se-
10 mester (excluding any portion of such tuition and fees cov-
11 ered by a scholarship or other type of financial assistance
12 which does not consist of a student loan), except that such
13 amount may not exceed \$3,000.

14 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY OF EMPLOYEES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, an
16 employee is eligible to receive a payment under this Act
17 if—

18 (1) at the time the first payment is made to the
19 employee under this Act, the employee has been con-
20 tinuously employed on a full-time basis by an em-
21 ploying office for not fewer than 12 consecutive
22 months;

23 (2) with respect to the semester for which the
24 payment is made, the employee meets the student
25 assistance eligibility requirements of section 484(a)

1 of the Higher Education Assistance Act of 1965 (20
2 U.S.C. 1091(a));

3 (3) with respect to the semester for which the
4 payment is made, the employee provides the head of
5 the employing office with a certification from the in-
6 stitution of higher education in which the employee
7 is enrolled of the employee's enrollment in a grad-
8 uate program and of the amount of tuition and fees
9 paid by the employee to the institution;

10 (4) the employee has not received a payment
11 under this Act for enrollment in another program of
12 post-baccalaureate study, except that nothing in this
13 paragraph may be construed to prohibit an employee
14 from receiving a payment for enrollment in a pro-
15 gram leading to more than one graduate degree; and

16 (5) the employee provides the office with such
17 other information and assurances as the head of the
18 office may require.

19 (b) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS AS ADDITION TO
20 BASIC PAY.—Any payment made to an eligible employee
21 under this Act shall be in addition to basic pay and any
22 other form of compensation otherwise payable to the em-
23 ployee involved.

1 **SEC. 4. PERMITTING PAYMENTS FOR PREVIOUS ENROLL-**
2 **MENT.**

3 An employing office which makes a payment under
4 this Act to an eligible employee with respect to a semester
5 may make a payment under this Act with respect to any
6 semester occurring during the 12-month period which
7 ends on the first day of the first semester for which a
8 payment is made to the employee by such office under this
9 Act if—

10 (1) the payment is made with respect to the
11 same program of post-baccalaureate study for which
12 the first payment is made to the employee by such
13 office under this Act; and

14 (2) the employee meets the eligibility require-
15 ments of section 3 with respect to such semester.

16 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE OF SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.**

17 The Secretary of Education shall assist employing of-
18 fices in the legislative branch in carrying out this Act.

19 **SEC. 6. EMPLOYING OFFICE DEFINED.**

20 The term “employing office in the legislative branch”
21 means any of the following:

22 (1) The personal office of a Member of the
23 House of Representatives (including a Delegate or
24 Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

25 (2) A committee of the House of Representa-
26 tives or a joint committee, except that the majority

1 and minority office of such a committee shall each
2 be considered as a separate employing office in the
3 legislative branch.

4 (3) Any other office headed by a person with
5 the final authority to appoint, hire, discharge, and
6 set the terms, conditions, or privileges of the employ-
7 ment of an employee of the House of Representa-
8 tives.

9 (4) The Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

10 (5) The Capitol Police Board.

11 (6) The Congressional Budget Office.

12 (7) The General Accounting Office.

13 (8) The Government Printing Office.

14 (9) The Library of Congress (including the
15 Congressional Research Service).

16 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to each em-
18 ploying office such sums as may be necessary for making
19 graduate study payments under this Act in fiscal year
20 2003 and each succeeding fiscal year.

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