

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 471

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2001

Mr. PASCARELL (for himself, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. RUSH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, 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 “Campus Fire Safety
5 Right-to-Know Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY OF CAMPUS BUILD-**
2 **INGS.**

3 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1092) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

6 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
7 paragraph (N);

8 (B) by striking the period at the end of
9 subparagraph (O) and inserting “; and”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following new
11 subparagraph:

12 “(P) the fire safety report prepared by the in-
13 stitution pursuant to subsection (h).”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(h) DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND
17 MEASURES.—

18 “(1) FIRE SAFETY REPORTS REQUIRED.—Each
19 eligible institution participating in any program
20 under this title shall, beginning in academic year
21 2001–2002, and each year thereafter, prepare, pub-
22 lish, and distribute, through appropriate publications
23 or mailings, to all current students and employees,
24 and to any applicant for enrollment or employment
25 upon request, an annual fire safety report containing
26 at least the following information with respect to the

1 campus fire safety practices and standards of that
2 institution:

3 “(A) A statement that identifies each stu-
4 dent housing facility of the institution, and
5 whether or not that facility is equipped with a
6 fire sprinkler system or other fire safety sys-
7 tems, or both.

8 “(B) Statistics concerning the occurrence
9 on campus, during the 2 preceding calendar
10 years for which data are available, of fires and
11 false fire alarms in student housing facilities.

12 “(C) For each such occurrence, a state-
13 ment of the human injuries or deaths and the
14 structural damage caused by the occurrence.

15 “(D) Information regarding fire alarms,
16 smoke alarms, the presence of adequate fire es-
17 cape planning or protocols (as defined in local
18 fire codes), rules on portable electrical appli-
19 ances, smoking and open flames (such as can-
20 dles), regular mandatory supervised fire drills,
21 and planned and future improvement in fire
22 safety.

23 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
24 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
25 Secretary to require particular policies, procedures,

1 or practices by institutions of higher education with
2 respect to fire safety.

3 “(3) REPORTS.—Each institution participating
4 in any program under this title shall make periodic
5 reports to the campus community on fires and false
6 fire alarms that are reported to local fire depart-
7 ments in a manner that will aid the prevention of
8 similar occurrences.

9 “(4) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—On an annual
10 basis, each institution participating in any program
11 under this title shall submit to the Secretary a copy
12 of the statistics required to be made available under
13 paragraph (1)(B). The Secretary shall—

14 “(A) review such statistics;

15 “(B) make copies of the statistics sub-
16 mitted to the Secretary available to the public;
17 and

18 “(C) in coordination with representatives
19 of institutions of higher education, identify ex-
20 emplary fire safety policies, procedures, and
21 practices and disseminate information con-
22 cerning those policies, procedures, and practices
23 that have proven effective in the reduction of
24 campus fires.

1 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
2 term ‘campus’ has the meaning provided in sub-
3 section (f)(6).”.

4 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY SECRETARY OF EDU-**
5 **CATION.**

6 Within one year after the date of enactment of this
7 Act, the Secretary of Education shall prepare and submit
8 to the Congress a report containing—

9 (1) an analysis of the current status of fire
10 safety systems in college and university facilities, in-
11 cluding sprinkler systems;

12 (2) an analysis of the appropriate fire safety
13 standards to apply to these facilities, which the Sec-
14 retary shall prepare after consultation with such fire
15 safety experts, representatives of institutions of
16 higher education, and other Federal agencies as the
17 Secretary, in the Secretary’s discretion, considers
18 appropriate;

19 (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all non-
20 conforming dormitories and other campus buildings
21 up to current new building codes; and

22 (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-
23 cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-

- 1 ards in all college facilities, including recommenda-
- 2 tions for methods to fund such cost.

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