

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2683

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WALSH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York) 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 2003”.

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) ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORTS RE-
19 QUIRED.—Each eligible institution participating in
20 any program under this title shall, beginning in aca-
21 demic year 2004–2005, and each year thereafter,
22 prepare, publish, and distribute, through appropriate
23 publications (including the Internet) or mailings, to
24 all current students and employees, and to any ap-
25 plicant for enrollment or employment upon request,
26 an annual fire safety report containing at least the

1 following information with respect to the campus fire
2 safety practices and standards of that 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 academic
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 “(E) Information about fire safety edu-
24 cation and training provided to students, fac-
25 ulty, and staff, including the percentage of stu-

1 dents, faculty, and staff who have participated
2 in such education and training.

3 “(F) Information concerning fire safety at
4 student fraternities and sororities that are rec-
5 ognized by the institution, including—

6 “(i) information reported to the insti-
7 tution under paragraph (4); and

8 “(ii) a statement concerning whether
9 and how the institution works with recog-
10 nized student fraternities and sororities to
11 make building and property owned or con-
12 trolled by such fraternities or sororities
13 more fire safe.

14 “(2) CURRENT INFORMATION TO CAMPUS COM-
15 MUNITY.—Each institution participating in any pro-
16 gram under this title shall make, keep, and maintain
17 a log, written in a form that can be easily under-
18 stood, recording all fires reported to local fire de-
19 partments, including the nature, date, time, and
20 general location of each fire and all false fire alarms.
21 All entries that are required pursuant to this para-
22 graph shall, except where disclosure of such informa-
23 tion is prohibited by law, be open to public inspec-
24 tion, and each such institution shall make periodic
25 reports to the campus community on such fires and

1 false fire alarms in a manner that will aid the pre-
2 vention of similar occurrences.

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

8 “(A) review such statistics;

9 “(B) make copies of the statistics sub-
10 mitted to the Secretary available to the public;
11 and

12 “(C) in coordination with nationally recog-
13 nized fire organizations and representatives of
14 institutions of higher education, identify exem-
15 plary fire safety policies, procedures, and prac-
16 tices and disseminate information concerning
17 those policies, procedures, and practices that
18 have proven effective in the reduction of cam-
19 pus fires.

20 “(4) FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES.—Each
21 institution participating in a program under this
22 title shall request each fraternity and sorority that
23 is recognized by the institution to collect and report
24 to the institution the information described in sub-
25 paragraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1), as ap-

1 plied to the fraternity or sorority, for each building
2 and property owned or controlled by the fraternity
3 or sorority, respectively.

4 “(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
5 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
6 Secretary to require particular policies, procedures,
7 or practices by institutions of higher education with
8 respect to fire safety.

9 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
10 term ‘campus’ has the meaning provided in sub-
11 section (f)(6).”.

12 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY SECRETARY OF EDU-**
13 **CATION.**

14 Within two years after the date of enactment of this
15 Act, the Secretary of Education shall prepare and submit
16 to the Congress a report containing—

17 (1) an analysis of the current status of fire
18 safety systems in college and university facilities, in-
19 cluding sprinkler systems;

20 (2) an analysis of the appropriate fire safety
21 standards to apply to these facilities, which the Sec-
22 retary shall prepare after consultation with such fire
23 safety experts, representatives of institutions of
24 higher education, and other Federal agencies as the

1 Secretary, in the Secretary's discretion, considers
2 appropriate;

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

6 (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-
7 cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-
8 ards in all college facilities, including recommenda-
9 tions for methods to fund such cost.

○