

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2931

To amend part B of title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the eligibility requirement to include Predominantly Black Institutions of higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2005

Mr. OWENS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend part B of title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the eligibility requirement to include Predominantly Black Institutions of higher education.

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 “HBCU Expansion Act
5 of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Over the last several years post-secondary
9 institutions have faced a dramatic increase in the

1 number of non-traditional students. Predominantly
2 Black Institutions, following the pattern of histori-
3 cally Black colleges and universities (referred to as
4 “HBCU’s”), have helped ease the influx by offering
5 an affordable quality education.

6 (2) Currently, more than 100,000 students at-
7 tend Predominantly Black Institutions. Similar to
8 HBCU’s the majority of these students depend heav-
9 ily on Federal financial aid to graduate from college.

10 (3) Predominantly Black Institutions, like
11 HBCU’s, provide opportunities for minority students
12 to pursue post-secondary degrees.

13 (4) Predominantly Black Institutions, like
14 HBCU’s, have produced a cadre of leaders who
15 make up a significant number of the Nation’s minor-
16 ity doctors, lawyers, and other professionals.

17 (5) Predominantly Black Institutions, like
18 HBCU’s, provide students from under-served com-
19 munities with academic and emotional support which
20 translates to high retention and graduation rates.

21 **SEC. 3. QUALIFYING PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITU-**
22 **TIONS.**

23 Section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
24 U.S.C. 1061) is amended—

25 (1) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by striking “means any” and inserting
2 “means (A) any”; and

3 (B) by inserting before the period at the
4 end the following: “or (B) any Predominantly
5 Black Institution”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(6) The term ‘Predominantly Black Institu-
9 tion’ means any institution of higher education
10 that—

11 “(A) is an eligible institution under section
12 312(b) that complies with paragraph (1)(C)(i)
13 of such section; and

14 “(B) at the time of application, has a stu-
15 dent enrollment of at least 500 full-time stu-
16 dents, at least 51 percent of whom are African
17 Americans.”.

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