

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3284

To direct the Secretary of Education to provide grants to establish sustainability programs, charged with developing and implementing integrated environmental, economic, and social sustainability initiatives through administrative and operational practices as well as multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach at institutions of higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. WU, and Mr. EHLERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to provide grants to establish sustainability programs, charged with developing and implementing integrated environmental, economic, and social sustainability initiatives through administrative and operational practices as well as multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach at 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Higher Education Sus-
3 tainability Act of 2005”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The environmental life-support systems vital
7 to the Nation’s economic and social prosperity are
8 increasingly at risk.

9 (2) The Nation’s future progress requires the
10 simultaneous achievement of a well functioning envi-
11 ronmental system, economic viability that creates
12 new jobs and livable communities that provide access
13 to all for participation in their governance.

14 (3) Achieving more sustainable environmental,
15 economic and social systems will require new re-
16 search, education and technology development, and
17 innovative policy approaches that are flexible and
18 use market mechanisms while engaging relevant
19 stakeholders from the private and public sectors.

20 (4) For the Nation to remain competitive in
21 this global world of increasingly limited natural re-
22 sources, higher education institutions need to take
23 immediate steps to create new research, education
24 and technology development that reflect the frame-
25 work of sustainability.

1 (5) The Nation’s institutions of higher edu-
2 cation have a unique role to play in fostering new
3 knowledge, evaluating policies, and discovering new
4 technologies to address the persistent and often
5 linked environmental, social and economic problems
6 that exist.

7 (6) The Nation’s higher education institutions
8 also are uniquely positioned to prepare the future
9 labor force for addressing threats to, and seeking
10 opportunities for economic, environmental, and so-
11 cial sustainability.

12 (7) The Nation’s higher education institutions
13 are places where approaches that integrate the envi-
14 ronmental, social and economic dimensions can be
15 designed, tested, and refined for application to real
16 world settings in collaboration with industry, govern-
17 ment and the nonprofit sector.

18 (8) The Nation’s higher education institutions
19 are uniquely situated to be models of sustainable
20 management and operations that can provide exam-
21 ples to industry and government of operational
22 strategies that integrate the basic principles of envi-
23 ronmental, economic, and social sustainability.

24 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to provide support to faculty, staff, and stu-
2 dents at institutions of higher education to establish
3 both administrative and educational sustainability
4 programs on campus;

5 (2) to promote and enhance research by faculty
6 and students at institutions of higher education in
7 sustainability practices and innovations that assist
8 and improve sustainability; and

9 (3) to provide support to institutions of higher
10 education to work with community partners from the
11 business, government, and nonprofit sectors to de-
12 sign and implement sustainability programs for ap-
13 plication in the community and workplace.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

15 Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 is
16 amended by adding at the end the following new part:

17 **“PART E—UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY**
18 **PROGRAMS**

19 **“SEC. 771. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants
21 to eligible entities to establish sustainability programs to
22 design and implement sustainability practices including in
23 the areas of energy management, green building, waste
24 management, purchasing, transportation, and toxics man-
25 agement, and other aspects of sustainability that integrate

1 campus operations with multidisciplinary educational pro-
2 grams and are applicable to the private and government
3 sectors.

4 “(b) PERIOD OF GRANT.—The provision of payments
5 under a grant under subsection (a) may extend over a pe-
6 riod of not more than 4 fiscal years.

7 “(c) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For pur-
8 poses of this part, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

9 “(1) an institution of higher education that
10 grants 2 or 4-year undergraduate degrees, or mas-
11 ters and doctoral degrees, or both; or

12 “(2) a non-profit consortia, association, alli-
13 ance, or collaboration operating as a partnership of
14 such an institution with other such institutions.

15 **“SEC. 772. APPLICATIONS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under section
17 771(a), an eligible entity shall submit an application to
18 the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing
19 such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

20 “(b) ASSURANCES.—Such application shall include
21 assurances that the eligible entity—

22 “(1) has developed or shall develop a plan, in-
23 cluding an evaluation component, for the program
24 component established pursuant to section 773;

1 “(2) shall use Federal funds received from a
2 grant under section 771(a) to supplement, not sup-
3 plant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be
4 available for projects funded under such section;

5 “(3) shall provide, with respect to any fiscal
6 year in which such entity receives funds from a
7 grant under section 771(a), non-Federal funds or an
8 in kind contribution in an amount equal to 20 per-
9 cent of funds from such grant, for the purpose of
10 carrying out the program component established in
11 section 773; and

12 “(4) shall collaborate with business, govern-
13 ment, and the nonprofit sectors in the development
14 and implementation of its sustainability plan.

15 **“SEC. 773. USE OF FUNDS.**

16 “Grants made under section 771 may be used by an
17 eligible entity for the following purposes:

18 “(1) To develop and implement administrative
19 and operations practices at institutions of higher
20 education that test, model, and analyze principles of
21 sustainability.

22 “(2) To establish multidisciplinary education,
23 research, and outreach programs at institutions of
24 higher education that address the environmental, so-
25 cial, and economic dimensions of sustainability.

1 “(3) To support research and teaching initia-
2 tives that focus on multidisciplinary and integrated
3 environmental, economic, and social elements.

4 “(4) To establish initiatives in the areas of en-
5 ergy management, green building, waste manage-
6 ment, purchasing, toxics management, transpor-
7 tation, and other aspects of sustainability.

8 “(5) To support student, faculty, and staff
9 work at institutions of higher education to imple-
10 ment, research, and evaluate sustainable practices.

11 “(6) To conduct faculty, staff and/or adminis-
12 trator trainings on the subjects of sustainability and
13 institutional change.

14 “(7) To compile, evaluate and disseminate best
15 practices, case studies, guidelines and standards.

16 “(8) To conduct efforts to engage external
17 stakeholders such as business, alumni, and accred-
18 iting agencies in the process of building support for
19 research, education and technology development for
20 sustainability.

21 **“SEC. 774. REPORTS.**

22 “An eligible entity that receives a grant under section
23 section 771(a) shall submit to the Secretary, for each fis-
24 cal year in which the entity receives amounts from such
25 grant, a report that describes the work conducted pursu-

1 ant to section 773, research findings and publications, ad-
2 ministrative savings experienced, and an evaluation of the
3 program.

4 **“SEC. 775. ALLOCATION REQUIREMENT.**

5 “The Secretary may not make grants under section
6 771(a) to any eligible entity in a total amount that is less
7 than \$500,000 or more than \$2,000,000.

8 **“SEC. 776. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
10 priated to carry out section 771(a), \$50,000,000 for fiscal
11 year 2006 and such sums as may be necessary for each
12 of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

13 “(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under
14 subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until ex-
15 pended.”.

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