

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3869

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a process for accrediting agencies or associations to seek a waiver of certain accreditation requirements.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

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

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a process for accrediting agencies or associations to seek a waiver of certain accreditation requirements.

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 “Innovation in Accredi-
5 tation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WAIVERS OF CERTAIN ACCREDITATION REQUIRE-**
2 **MENTS.**

3 Section 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1099b) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(r) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary shall establish a proc-
7 ess through which an accrediting agency or association
8 may seek to have a requirement of this subpart waived,
9 if such agency or association—

10 “(1) demonstrates that such waiver is necessary
11 to enable an institution of higher education or pro-
12 gram accredited by the agency or association to im-
13 plement innovative practices intended to—

14 “(A) reduce administrative burdens to the
15 institution or program without creating costs
16 for the taxpayer; or

17 “(B) improve the delivery of services to
18 students, improve instruction or learning out-
19 comes, or otherwise benefit students; and

20 “(2) describes the terms and conditions that
21 will be placed upon the institution or program to en-
22 sure academic integrity and quality.”.

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