

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4639

To index the maximum value of Federal Pell Grants to inflation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2019

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois (for himself and Mrs. LEE of Nevada) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To index the maximum value of Federal Pell Grants to inflation.

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 “Pell Grant Sustain-
5 ability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) From 2009 through 2018, the maximum
9 discretionary Federal Pell Grants under section 401
10 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 stayed flat
11 while inflation was 17 percent.

1 (2) The value of Federal Pell Grants must keep
 2 pace with students’ costs in order to fulfill their mis-
 3 sion of enabling lower-income students to attend col-
 4 lege.

5 **SEC. 3. INDEXING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS TO INFLATION.**

6 Section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 7 U.S.C. 1070a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “through
 9 fiscal year 2017”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b)(7)(C), by amending clause
 11 (iii) to read as follows:

12 “(iii) SUBSEQUENT AWARD YEARS.—

13 “(I) AWARD YEARS 2018–2019
 14 AND 2019–2020.—For each of the
 15 award years 2018–2019 and 2019–
 16 2020, the amount determined under
 17 this subparagraph for purposes of
 18 subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be equal to
 19 the amount determined under clause
 20 (ii) for award year 2017–2018.

21 “(II) AWARD YEAR 2020–2021
 22 AND EACH SUBSEQUENT AWARD
 23 YEAR.—For award year 2020–2021
 24 and each subsequent award year, the
 25 amount determined under this sub-

1 paragraph for purposes of subpara-
2 graph (B)(iii) shall be equal to—

3 “(aa)(AA) \$6,195 or the
4 total maximum Federal Pell
5 Grant for the preceding award
6 year (as determined under clause
7 (iv)(II)), whichever is greater, in-
8 creased by a percentage equal to
9 the annual adjustment percent-
10 age for the award year for which
11 the amount under this subpara-
12 graph is being determined; re-
13 duced by

14 “(BB) \$5,135 or the max-
15 imum Federal Pell Grant for
16 which a student was eligible for
17 the preceding award year, as
18 specified in the last enacted ap-
19 propriation Act applicable to that
20 year, whichever is greater; and

21 “(bb) rounded to the nearest
22 \$5.”.

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