

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4648

To improve estimates of off-campus room and board for students at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2019

Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To improve estimates of off-campus room and board for students at institutions of higher education, 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 “Transparency in Off-  
5 Campus Housing Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INSTITUTIONAL CALCULATIONS FOR OFF-CAMPUS**  
7 **ROOM AND BOARD.**

8 (a) **AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS.**—Sec-  
9 tion 478(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
10 U.S.C. 1087rr(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) by striking “or” at the end of subpara-  
3 graph (A);

4 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
5 subparagraph (B) and inserting “; or”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(C) to prescribe—

8 “(i) at least one methodology that in-  
9 stitutions of higher education (other than  
10 institutions that receive a waiver under  
11 clause (ii)) shall use in determining the al-  
12 lowance for room and board costs incurred  
13 by students described in subparagraph (A)  
14 of section 472(3) and by students de-  
15 scribed in subparagraph (D) of such sec-  
16 tion, that shall—

17 “(I) ensure that each such allow-  
18 ance determination is sufficient to  
19 cover reasonable room and board costs  
20 incurred by the students for whom  
21 such allowance is being determined;  
22 and

23 “(II) include the sources of infor-  
24 mation that institutions shall use in

1 making each such allowance deter-  
2 mination; and

3 “(ii) a process for granting institu-  
4 tions of higher education a waiver from the  
5 requirements of clause (i), including—

6 “(I) a requirement that each in-  
7 stitution of higher education seeking  
8 such a waiver submit to the Sec-  
9 retary—

10 “(aa) a description of the  
11 methodology that the institution  
12 will use for each allowance deter-  
13 mination described in clause (i);

14 “(bb) an assurance that  
15 each such allowance determina-  
16 tion meets the requirements of  
17 clause (i)(I); and

18 “(cc) a demonstration that  
19 the institution will use reliable  
20 sources of information for each  
21 such allowance determination;  
22 and

23 “(II) a requirement that each in-  
24 stitution of higher education that re-  
25 ceives such a waiver publicly disclose

1 on the website of the institution the  
2 methodology and sources of informa-  
3 tion used by the institution for each  
4 allowance determination described in  
5 clause (i).”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(3) Any regulation proposed by the Secretary  
8 under paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection shall not  
9 be subject to the requirements of paragraph (2).”.

10 (b) REQUIREMENT TO PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS.—

11 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of  
12 this Act, the Secretary of Education shall issue regulations  
13 that meet the requirements of subparagraph (C) of section  
14 478(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
15 1087rr(a)(1)), as added by subsection (a).

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