

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 609

To prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default.

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 “Protecting Job Oppor-
5 tunities for Borrowers Act” or the “Protecting JOBS
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST SUSPENSION, REVOCATION,**
 2 **OR DENIAL OF STATE-ISSUED PROFESSIONAL**
 3 **LICENSES OR PENALTIES DUE TO STUDENT**
 4 **DEFAULT.**

5 (a) HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 LOANS.—Part
 6 B of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 7 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 8 the following:

9 **“SEC. 124. PROHIBITION AGAINST SUSPENSION, REVOCA-**
 10 **TION, OR DENIAL OF STATE-ISSUED PROFES-**
 11 **SIONAL LICENSES OR PENALTIES DUE TO**
 12 **STUDENT DEFAULT.**

13 “(a) PROHIBITION.—Beginning 2 years after the
 14 date of enactment of the Protecting Job Opportunities for
 15 Borrowers Act, a State that receives assistance under this
 16 Act may not suspend, revoke, or deny the approval or re-
 17 newal of a State-issued license described in subsection (b)
 18 or issue a fine or other penalty with respect to an indi-
 19 vidual based solely on such individual’s default or delin-
 20 quency on a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title
 21 IV.

22 “(b) TYPES OF LICENSES.—A State-issued license
 23 described in this subsection means any of the following:

24 “(1) A State-issued driver’s license (including
 25 any State-issued document permitting a specific in-
 26 dividual to operate one or more types of motorized

1 vehicles, such as a motorcycle, car, truck, or bus on
2 a public road).

3 “(2) A State-issued teaching license.

4 “(3) A State-issued professional license involved
5 in or affecting interstate commerce (including any li-
6 cense, permit, certificate, registration, charter, au-
7 thority or similar form of permission required for
8 lawful employment in a particular career field).

9 “(c) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Any individual aggrieved
10 as a result of a violation of subsection (a) may bring a
11 civil action in an appropriate district court of the United
12 States to obtain prospective injunctive relief against an in-
13 dividual State officer in the officer’s official capacity.”.

14 (b) HEALTH EDUCATION LOANS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State may not suspend,
16 revoke, or deny the approval or renewal of a State-
17 issued license described in section 124(b) of the
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 or issue a fine or
19 other penalty with respect to an individual based
20 solely on such individual’s default or delinquency on
21 a Health Education Assistance Loan or Primary
22 Care Loan made under part A of title VII of the
23 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.).

24 (2) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Any individual ag-
25 grieved as a result of a violation of paragraph (1)

1 may bring a civil action in an appropriate district
2 court of the United States to obtain prospective in-
3 junctive relief against an individual State officer in
4 the officer's official capacity.

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