

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1402

To amend the Federal Pell Grant Program to support career training opportunities for young Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Federal Pell Grant Program to support career training opportunities for young Americans.

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 “More Choice for Career
5 Training Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPORTING CAREER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

7 **FOR ALL YOUNG AMERICANS.**

8 (a) AMENDMENTS.—

9 (1) BEGINNING ON THE DATE OF ENACTMENT
10 OF THIS ACT.—Section 401 of the Higher Education

1 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is amended by add-
2 ing at the end the following:

3 “(k) ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall devise
5 an alternative certification program to enable stu-
6 dents to use Federal Pell Grants to enroll in edu-
7 cational programs (either at eligible institutions or
8 institutions that are not eligible institutions) for
9 which students are not otherwise eligible to use Fed-
10 eral Pell Grants under this section.

11 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

12 “(A) PROGRAM COMPLETION RATE.—The
13 term ‘program completion rate’ means the per-
14 centage of enrollees in a program who success-
15 fully complete the program requirements within
16 the standard program duration.

17 “(B) JOB PLACEMENT RATE.—The term
18 ‘job placement rate’ means the percentage of
19 graduates who have obtained full-time employ-
20 ment in the graduate’s field of study.

21 “(3) NO REQUIREMENT FOR ACCREDITATION
22 OR STATE AUTHORIZATION.—The alternative certifi-
23 cation program shall not require accreditation, State
24 authorization, minimum instructional hours, or min-
25 imum classroom time of educational programs for

1 which students may use Federal Pell Grants to en-
2 roll pursuant to this subsection.

3 “(4) CONTINUOUS OPERATION; DETERMINA-
4 TION OF ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall—

5 “(A) only certify an educational program
6 under the alternative certification program
7 that—

8 “(i) has been in existence for not less
9 than 5 years; and

10 “(ii) has an annual cost of enrollment
11 for a year that is equal to or less than the
12 maximum Federal Pell Grant award appli-
13 cable to that year;

14 “(B) make an initial determination of edu-
15 cational program eligibility under the alter-
16 native certification program not later than 180
17 days after the date of application of the edu-
18 cational program; and

19 “(C) re-evaluate educational program eligi-
20 bility under the alternative certification pro-
21 gram not less often than once every 5 years.

22 “(5) INFORMATION TO ASSESS PROGRAM ELIGI-
23 BILITY.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each educational pro-
25 gram applying for certification or re-certifi-

1 cation under the alternative certification pro-
2 gram, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the
3 Secretary of Labor shall submit to the Sec-
4 retary all data necessary for the Secretary to
5 assess educational program eligibility under the
6 alternative certification program.

7 “(B) PRIVACY.—The Secretary shall keep
8 all student data submitted under subparagraph
9 (A) private and confidential.

10 “(6) DETERMINATIONS OF PROGRAM ELIGI-
11 BILITY.—The Secretary shall make a determination
12 of educational program eligibility under the alter-
13 native certification program on the basis of student
14 outcomes in the educational program, including
15 based on each of the following:

16 “(A) Program completion rate.

17 “(B) Job placement rate within 90 days of
18 program completion.

19 “(C) Job placement rate within 12 months
20 of program completion.

21 “(D) Graduate median starting salary.

22 “(E) Graduate median salary 5 years after
23 program completion.

24 “(F) Graduate average starting salary.

1 “(G) Graduate average salary 5 years after
2 program completion.

3 “(7) DECERTIFICATION.—The Secretary may
4 decertify an educational program under the alter-
5 native certification program if the program meets
6 any of the following:

7 “(A) The program completion rate is less
8 than 70 percent.

9 “(B) The job placement rate within 90
10 days of program completion is less than 50 per-
11 cent.

12 “(C) The job placement rate within 12
13 months of program completion is less than 70
14 percent.

15 “(D) The graduate median starting salary
16 is less than 200 percent of the Federal poverty
17 level for a one-person household.

18 “(E) The graduate median salary 5 years
19 after program completion is less than 300 per-
20 cent of the Federal poverty level for a one-per-
21 son household.

22 “(8) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
23 this subsection shall be construed to extend eligi-
24 bility with respect to an educational program that is
25 certified under the alternative certification program

1 under this subsection to other programs under this
2 title.”.

3 (2) BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2023.—Section 401
4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 1070a), as amended by section 703 of division FF
6 of Public Law 116–260, is further amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following:

8 “(k) ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall devise
10 an alternative certification program to enable stu-
11 dents to use Federal Pell Grants to enroll in edu-
12 cational programs (either at eligible institutions or
13 institutions that are not eligible institutions) for
14 which students are not otherwise eligible to use Fed-
15 eral Pell Grants under this section.

16 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

17 “(A) PROGRAM COMPLETION RATE.—The
18 term ‘program completion rate’ means the per-
19 centage of enrollees in a program who success-
20 fully complete the program requirements within
21 the standard program duration.

22 “(B) JOB PLACEMENT RATE.—The term
23 ‘job placement rate’ means the percentage of
24 graduates who have obtained full-time employ-
25 ment in the graduate’s field of study.

1 “(3) NO REQUIREMENT FOR ACCREDITATION
2 OR STATE AUTHORIZATION.—The alternative certifi-
3 cation program shall not require accreditation, State
4 authorization, minimum instructional hours, or min-
5 imum classroom time of educational programs for
6 which students may use Federal Pell Grants to en-
7 roll pursuant to this subsection.

8 “(4) CONTINUOUS OPERATION; DETERMINA-
9 TION OF ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall—

10 “(A) only certify an educational program
11 under the alternative certification program
12 that—

13 “(i) has been in existence for not less
14 than 5 years; and

15 “(ii) has an annual cost of enrollment
16 for a year that is equal to or less than the
17 maximum Federal Pell Grant award appli-
18 cable to that year;

19 “(B) make an initial determination of edu-
20 cational program eligibility under the alter-
21 native certification program not later than 180
22 days after the date of application of the edu-
23 cational program; and

1 “(C) re-evaluate educational program eligi-
2 bility under the alternative certification pro-
3 gram not less often than once every 5 years.

4 “(5) INFORMATION TO ASSESS PROGRAM ELIGI-
5 BILITY.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each educational pro-
7 gram applying for certification or re-certifi-
8 cation under the alternative certification pro-
9 gram, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the
10 Secretary of Labor shall submit to the Sec-
11 retary all data necessary for the Secretary to
12 assess educational program eligibility under the
13 alternative certification program.

14 “(B) PRIVACY.—The Secretary shall keep
15 all student data submitted under subparagraph
16 (A) private and confidential.

17 “(6) DETERMINATIONS OF PROGRAM ELIGI-
18 BILITY.—The Secretary shall make a determination
19 of educational program eligibility under the alter-
20 native certification program on the basis of student
21 outcomes in the educational program, including
22 based on each of the following:

23 “(A) Program completion rate.

24 “(B) Job placement rate within 90 days of
25 program completion.

1 “(C) Job placement rate within 12 months
2 of program completion.

3 “(D) Graduate median starting salary.

4 “(E) Graduate median salary 5 years after
5 program completion.

6 “(F) Graduate average starting salary.

7 “(G) Graduate average salary 5 years after
8 program completion.

9 “(7) DECERTIFICATION.—The Secretary may
10 decertify an educational program under the alter-
11 native certification program if the program meets
12 any of the following:

13 “(A) The program completion rate is less
14 than 70 percent.

15 “(B) The job placement rate within 90
16 days of program completion is less than 50 per-
17 cent.

18 “(C) The job placement rate within 12
19 months of program completion is less than 70
20 percent.

21 “(D) The graduate median starting salary
22 is less than 200 percent of the Federal poverty
23 level for a one-person household.

24 “(E) The graduate median salary 5 years
25 after program completion is less than 300 per-

1 cent of the Federal poverty level for a one-per-
2 son household.

3 “(8) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 this subsection shall be construed to extend eligi-
5 bility with respect to an educational program that is
6 certified under the alternative certification program
7 under this subsection to other programs under this
8 title.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
10 subsection (a)(2) shall take effect as if included in the en-
11 actment of Division FF of the Consolidated Appropria-
12 tions Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260).

○