H. R. 961

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the period of eligibility for Federal Pell Grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 9, 2023

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. GOMEZ) 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 increase the period of eligibility for Federal Pell Grants, 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
4 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5 This Act may be cited as the “Pell to Grad Act”.
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7 SEC. 2. PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.
8 Section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 1070a) is amended—
10 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or as a
11 postbaccalaureate student in accordance with sub-
12 section (c)(1),” after “as an undergraduate,”; and
(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) The period during which a student may receive Federal Pell Grants shall be the period required for the completion of the first undergraduate baccalaureate course of study being pursued by that student at the institution at which the student is in attendance except that—

“(A) any period during which the student is enrolled in a noncredit or remedial course of study as defined in paragraph (2) shall not be counted for the purpose of this paragraph; and

“(B) the period during which a student may receive Federal Pell Grants shall also include the period required for the completion of the first postbaccalaureate course of study at an eligible institution that meets the definition of institution of higher education in section 101, in a case in which—

“(i) the student received a Federal Pell Grant during the period required for the completion of the student’s first undergraduate baccalaureate course of study for at least 1 but fewer than 16 semesters, or
the equivalent of at least 1 but fewer than
16 semesters, as determined under para-
graph (5);
“(ii) the student would otherwise be
eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, but for
the completion of such baccalaureate
course of study; and
“(iii) the period during which the stu-
dent receives Federal Pell Grants does not
exceed the student’s duration limits under
paragraph (5).”; and
(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “12”
each place it appears and inserting “16”.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO LAW AS MODIFIED
BY THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2021.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401 of the Higher Edu-
cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a), as amended by sec-
tion 703 of division FF the Consolidated Appropriations
Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), is further amended—
(1) in subsection (b)(8)(A), by inserting “or as
a postbaccalaureate student in accordance with sub-
section (d)(1),” after “as an undergraduate,”;
(2) in subsection (d)—
(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) The period during which a student may receive Federal Pell Grants shall be the period required for the completion of the first undergraduate baccalaureate course of study being pursued by that student at the institution at which the student is in attendance except that—

“(A) any period during which the student is enrolled in a noncredit or remedial course of study, as described in paragraph (2), shall not be counted for the purpose of this paragraph; and

“(B) the period during which a student may receive Federal Pell Grants shall also include the period required for the completion of the first postbaccalaureate course of study at an eligible institution that is an institution of higher education as defined in section 101, in a case in which—

“(i) the student received a Federal Pell Grant during the period required for the completion of the student’s first undergraduate baccalaureate course of study for at least 1 but fewer than 16 semesters, or
the equivalent of at least 1 but fewer than
16 semesters, as determined under para-
graph (5);

“(ii) the student would otherwise be
eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, but for
the completion of such baccalaureate
course of study; and

“(iii) the period during which the stu-
dent receives Federal Pell Grants does not
exceed the student’s duration limits under
paragraph (5).”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “12”
each place it appears and inserting “16”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enact-
ment of title VII of division FF of the Consolidated Appro-