

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

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 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pell to Grad Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.**

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

8 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or as a
9 postbaccalaureate student in accordance with sub-
10 section (c)(1),” after “as an undergraduate,”; and

1 (2) in subsection (c)—

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

4 “(1) The period during which a student may re-
5 ceive Federal Pell Grants shall be the period re-
6 quired for the completion of the first undergraduate
7 baccalaureate course of study being pursued by that
8 student at the institution at which the student is in
9 attendance except that—

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

14 “(B) the period during which a student
15 may receive Federal Pell Grants shall also in-
16 clude the period required for the completion of
17 the first postbaccalaureate course of study at
18 an eligible institution that meets the definition
19 of institution of higher education in section
20 101, in a case in which—

21 “(i) the student received a Federal
22 Pell Grant during the period required for
23 the completion of the student’s first under-
24 graduate baccalaureate course of study for
25 at least 1 but fewer than 16 semesters, or

1 the equivalent of at least 1 but fewer than
2 16 semesters, as determined under para-
3 graph (5);

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

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

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

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

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401 of the Higher Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a), as amended by sec-
19 tion 703 of division FF the Consolidated Appropriations
20 Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), is further amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)(8)(A), by inserting “or as
22 a postbaccalaureate student in accordance with sub-
23 section (d)(1),” after “as an undergraduate,”;

24 (2) in subsection (d)—

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

3 “(1) The period during which a student may re-
4 ceive Federal Pell Grants shall be the period re-
5 quired for the completion of the first undergraduate
6 baccalaureate course of study being pursued by that
7 student at the institution at which the student is in
8 attendance except that—

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

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

21 “(i) the student received a Federal
22 Pell Grant during the period required for
23 the completion of the student’s first under-
24 graduate baccalaureate course of study for
25 at least 1 but fewer than 16 semesters, or

1 the equivalent of at least 1 but fewer than
2 16 semesters, as determined under para-
3 graph (5);

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

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

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

14 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
15 subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enact-
16 ment of title VII of division FF of the Consolidated Appro-
17 priations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260).

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