

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2977

To direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Comptroller General of the United States to study the feasibility of Historically Black Colleges and Universities achieving a certain classification.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2023

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Comptroller General of the United States to study the feasibility of Historically Black Colleges and Universities achieving a certain classification.

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 “Increase America’s Re-
5 search Capacity Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
 2 VERSITY.—The term “Historically Black College or
 3 University” means a part B institution described in
 4 section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 5 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

6 (2) R1 INSTITUTION.—The term “R1 institu-
 7 tion” means an institution classified as an R1 doc-
 8 toral university, according to the Carnegie Classi-
 9 fication of Institutions of Higher Education frame-
 10 work as the framework exists on the date of enact-
 11 ment of this Act, by the issuer of the framework.

12 **SEC. 3. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON THE FEASI-**
 13 **BILITY OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES**
 14 **AND UNIVERSITIES ACHIEVING A CERTAIN**
 15 **CLASSIFICATION.**

16 (a) STUDY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
 18 the United States shall prepare a study on the insti-
 19 tutional challenges and barriers hindering Histori-
 20 cally Black Colleges and Universities from achieving,
 21 and the feasibility of the colleges and universities
 22 achieving, classification as an R1 institution.

23 (2) CONTENTS.—In preparing the study, the
 24 Comptroller General may—

25 (A) examine topics including—

1 (i) funding opportunities and resource
2 allocation required for Historically Black
3 Colleges and Universities to enhance their
4 research infrastructure and capacity, fo-
5 cusing on the opportunities and resources
6 of Federal research agencies, including the
7 Office of Science and Technology Policy,
8 the National Institute of Standards and
9 Technology of the Department of Com-
10 merce, and similar offices of the Depart-
11 ment of Commerce;

12 (ii) strategies for Historically Black
13 Colleges and Universities to recruit and re-
14 tain highly qualified faculty with strong re-
15 search backgrounds;

16 (iii) best practices and successful
17 models employed by R1 institutions (as of
18 the date the study is completed) that His-
19 torically Black Colleges and Universities
20 can adopt; and

21 (iv) analyses of—

22 (I) which Historically Black Col-
23 leges and Universities have transfer
24 agreements for their graduates with
25 R1 institutions, and how many grad-

1 uates attend R1 institutions under
2 those agreements;

3 (II) which institutions of higher
4 education are feeder institutions of
5 Black students into programs at R1
6 institutions; and

7 (III) what role undergraduate
8 Historically Black Colleges and Uni-
9 versities play in preparing students to
10 attend an R1 institution; and

11 (B) prepare recommendations for Federal
12 support and initiatives to facilitate the advance-
13 ment of Historically Black Colleges and Univer-
14 sities in research and innovation.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
17 shall submit a report containing the results of the study,
18 and recommendations for such legislative and administra-
19 tive action as the Comptroller General determines to be
20 appropriate, to the appropriate committees of Congress
21 and the Congressional Research Service.

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