

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4422

To require the Secretary of Education to award grants for graduate fellowship awards.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. STANTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to award grants for graduate fellowship awards.

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 “Fellowships to Prepare
5 the Next Generation of Teachers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS TO PREPARE FACULTY**
7 **IN HIGH-NEED AREAS AT COLLEGES OF EDU-**
8 **CATION.**

9 (a) GRANTS BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall
10 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible institu-

1 tions to enable such institutions to make graduate fellow-
2 ship awards to qualified individuals in accordance with the
3 provisions of this section.

4 (b) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible institution that de-
5 sires a grant under this section shall submit an application
6 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
7 taining such information as the Secretary may reasonably
8 require.

9 (c) TYPES OF FELLOWSHIPS SUPPORTED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution that
11 receives a grant under this section shall use the
12 grant funds to provide graduate fellowships to indi-
13 viduals who are preparing for the professorate in
14 order to prepare individuals to become elementary
15 school and secondary school science, technology, en-
16 gineering, and math teachers, special education
17 teachers, and teachers who provide instruction for
18 English-learners, who meet the applicable State cer-
19 tification and licensure requirements, including any
20 requirements for certification obtained through alter-
21 native routes to certification, or, with regard to spe-
22 cial education teachers, the qualifications described
23 in section 612(a)(14)(C) of the Individuals with Dis-
24 abilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(14)(C)).

1 (2) TYPES OF STUDY.—A graduate fellowship
2 provided under this section shall support an indi-
3 vidual in pursuing postbaccalaureate study, which
4 leads to a doctoral degree and may include a mas-
5 ter’s degree as part of such study, related to teacher
6 preparation and pedagogy in one of the following
7 areas:

8 (A) Science, technology, engineering, math-
9 ematics, and computer science, and their re-
10 lated subfields, if the individual has completed
11 a master’s degree in mathematics, engineering,
12 science, or computer science and is pursuing a
13 doctoral degree in mathematics, science, engi-
14 neering, or education.

15 (B) Special education.

16 (C) The instruction of English-learners, in-
17 cluding postbaccalaureate study in language in-
18 struction educational programs.

19 (d) FELLOWSHIP TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

20 (1) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—The Secretary
21 shall ensure that an eligible institution that receives
22 a grant under this section—

23 (A) shall provide graduate fellowship
24 awards to individuals who plan to pursue a ca-
25 reer in instruction at an institution of higher

1 education that has a teacher preparation pro-
2 gram; and

3 (B) may not provide a graduate fellowship
4 to an otherwise eligible individual—

5 (i) during periods in which such indi-
6 vidual is enrolled at an institution of high-
7 er education unless such individual is
8 maintaining satisfactory academic progress
9 in, and devoting full-time study or research
10 to, the pursuit of the degree for which the
11 fellowship support was provided; or

12 (ii) if the individual is engaged in
13 gainful employment, other than part-time
14 employment related to teaching, research,
15 or a similar activity determined by the in-
16 stitution to be consistent with and sup-
17 portive of the individual's progress toward
18 the degree for which the fellowship support
19 was provided.

20 (2) AMOUNT OF FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution
22 that receives a grant under this section shall
23 award stipends to individuals who are provided
24 graduate fellowships under this section.

1 (B) AWARDS BASED ON NEED.—A stipend
2 provided under this section shall be in an
3 amount equal to the level of support provided
4 by the National Science Foundation graduate
5 fellowships, except that such stipend shall be
6 adjusted as necessary so as not to exceed the
7 fellowship recipient's demonstrated need, as de-
8 termined by the institution of higher education
9 where the fellowship recipient is enrolled.

10 (3) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—

11 (A) TEACHING REQUIRED.—Each indi-
12 vidual who receives a graduate fellowship under
13 this section and earns a doctoral degree shall
14 teach for 1 year at an institution of higher edu-
15 cation that has a teacher preparation program
16 for each year of fellowship support received
17 under this section.

18 (B) INSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION.—Each
19 eligible institution that receives a grant under
20 this section shall provide an assurance to the
21 Secretary that the institution has inquired of
22 and determined the decision of each individual
23 who has received a graduate fellowship to, with-
24 in 3 years of receiving a doctoral degree, begin
25 employment at an institution of higher edu-

1 cation that has a teacher preparation program,
2 as required by this section.

3 (C) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—Prior to re-
4 ceiving an initial graduate fellowship award,
5 and upon the annual renewal of the graduate
6 fellowship award, an individual selected to re-
7 ceive a graduate fellowship under this section
8 shall sign an agreement with the Secretary
9 agreeing to pursue a career in instruction at an
10 institution of higher education that has a teach-
11 er preparation program in accordance with sub-
12 paragraph (A).

13 (D) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If an indi-
14 vidual who receives a graduate fellowship award
15 under this section fails to comply with the
16 agreement signed pursuant to subparagraph
17 (C), the sum of the amounts of any graduate
18 fellowship award received by such recipient
19 shall, upon a determination of such a failure, be
20 treated as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Staf-
21 ford Loan under part D of title IV Higher Edu-
22 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.),
23 and shall be subject to repayment, together
24 with interest thereon accruing from the date of
25 the fellowship award, in accordance with terms

1 and conditions specified by the Secretary in reg-
2 ulations under this section.

3 (E) MODIFIED SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—

4 The Secretary may waive or modify the service
5 requirement of this paragraph in accordance
6 with regulations promulgated by the Secretary
7 with respect to the criteria to determine the cir-
8 cumstances under which compliance with such
9 service requirement is inequitable or represents
10 a substantial hardship. The Secretary may
11 waive the service requirement if compliance by
12 the fellowship recipient is determined to be in-
13 equitable or represent a substantial hardship—

14 (i) because the individual is perma-
15 nently and totally disabled at the time of
16 the waiver request; or

17 (ii) based on documentation presented
18 to the Secretary of substantial economic or
19 personal hardship.

20 (e) INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR FELLOWS.—An el-

21 igible institution that receives a grant under this section
22 may reserve not more than ten percent of the grant
23 amount for academic and career transition support for
24 graduate fellowship recipients and for meeting the institu-
25 tional obligation described in subsection (d)(3)(B).

1 (f) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible in-
2 stitution that receives a grant under this section may not
3 use grant funds for general operational overhead of the
4 institution.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

- 6 (1) The term “eligible institution” means an in-
7 stitution of higher education, or a consortium of
8 such institutions, that offers a program of
9 postbaccalaureate study leading to a doctoral degree.
- 10 (2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
11 of Education.

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