

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 840

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award Early College Federal Pell Grants.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

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

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award Early College Federal Pell Grants.

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 “Go to High School,
5 Go to College Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. EARLY COLLEGE FEDERAL PELL GRANT.**

7 Section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1070a) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

1 “(k) EARLY COLLEGE FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the re-
 3 quirement under section 484(a)(1) that a student
 4 not been enrolled in an elementary or secondary
 5 school to be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant
 6 under this section, for the award years beginning on
 7 July 1, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2023, the
 8 Secretary shall carry out a program to award Early
 9 College Federal Pell Grants to eligible students to
 10 support enrollment in, and completion of, postsec-
 11 ondary courses offered through an early college high
 12 school.

13 “(2) MAXIMUM PERIOD FOR EARLY COLLEGE
 14 FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.—An eligible student may
 15 receive an Early College Federal Pell Grant under
 16 this subsection in an amount equal to the cost of not
 17 more than 4 full-time postsecondary semesters, or
 18 the equivalent of 4 full-time postsecondary semes-
 19 ters, as determined by the Secretary by regulation,
 20 while enrolled in postsecondary courses offered by an
 21 early college high school.

22 “(3) COUNTING OF AWARDS FOR PURPOSES OF
 23 FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An Early College Fed-
 25 eral Pell Grant received under this subsection

1 shall be counted toward the maximum period
2 for which a student may receive Federal Pell
3 Grants under this section, as provided under
4 subsection (c)(5).

5 “(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
6 the requirement under subparagraph (A) on a
7 case-by-case basis for any student dem-
8 onstrating evidence of a credible disruption or
9 redirection in course of study necessitating ad-
10 ditional time to complete a postsecondary de-
11 gree or credential.

12 “(4) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
14 this subsection, an Early College Federal Pell
15 Grant received under this subsection shall have
16 the same terms and conditions, and be awarded
17 in the same manner, as Federal Pell Grants
18 awarded under this section.

19 “(B) MINIMUM COMPLETION.—An eligible
20 student may only receive an Early College Fed-
21 eral Pell Grant under this subsection upon com-
22 pletion of a full-time postsecondary semester, or
23 the equivalent of a full-time postsecondary se-
24 mester, as determined by the Secretary by regu-
25 lation.

1 “(C) AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall pay
2 an eligible institution that is engaged in a part-
3 nership as part of an early college high school
4 an amount equal to the cost of tuition, fees,
5 and books for each postsecondary course (in-
6 cluding with respect to the postsecondary
7 courses completed to satisfy the requirement
8 under subparagraph (B)) an eligible student
9 completes through such early college high
10 school, provided such eligible student satisfies
11 the requirement under subparagraph (B).

12 “(5) REPORTING.—Each early college high
13 school shall annually submit to the Secretary a re-
14 port on the program of postsecondary courses pro-
15 vided to eligible students that includes the following
16 information that is reported for all eligible students
17 and disaggregated by each student subgroup of eligi-
18 ble students:

19 “(A) Total number and percentage of eligi-
20 ble students who enroll in and subsequently
21 complete the program at the early college high
22 school.

23 “(B) The number of postsecondary credits
24 earned by eligible students while enrolled in the
25 early college high school that may be applied to-

ward a postsecondary degree or credential program.

“(C) The percentage of eligible students enrolled in the early college high school who concurrently earn a secondary school diploma and an associate degree or equivalent.

“(D) The percentage of early college high school graduates completing the program who enroll in a postsecondary institution.

“(E) The total amount of Early College Federal Pell Grants awarded to eligible students served by the early college high school.

“(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.—The term ‘early college high school’ has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(B) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligible institution’ means an institution that—

“(i) complies with the existing requirements of being an eligible institution under this title; and

“(ii) demonstrates that it—

1 “(I) is participating in a state-
2 wide articulation agreement;

3 “(II) has an articulation agree-
4 ment in place with at least one public
5 institution of higher education; or

6 “(III) has a track record of stu-
7 dents successfully transferring credits
8 earned at the institution to public in-
9 stitutions of higher education.

10 “(C) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eli-
11 gible student’ means a student enrolled at an
12 early college high school who, if such student
13 met the requirements of section 484 for eligi-
14 bility for a Federal Pell Grant, would be award-
15 ed a Federal Pell Grant after the determination
16 of the expected family contribution for such stu-
17 dent.

18 “(D) STUDENT SUBGROUP.—The term
19 ‘student subgroup’ means—

20 “(i) economically disadvantaged stu-
21 dents;

22 “(ii) students from major racial and
23 ethnic groups;

24 “(iii) children with disabilities; and

“(iv) English learners.”.

