

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2655

To amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to increase the amount of financial support available for working students.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 22, 2019

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to increase the amount of financial support available for working students.

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 “Working Students
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASING SUPPORT FOR WORKING STUDENTS**
 2 **BY 35 PERCENT.**

3 (a) DEPENDENT STUDENTS.—Section 475(g)(2)(D)
 4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 5 1087oo(g)(2)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(D) an income protection allowance (or a
 7 successor amount prescribed by the Secretary
 8 under section 478) of \$9,010 for academic year
 9 2020–2021;”.

10 (b) INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPEND-
 11 ENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Section 476(b)(1)(A)(iv)
 12 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 13 1087pp(b)(1)(A)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

14 “(iv) an income protection allowance
 15 (or a successor amount prescribed by the
 16 Secretary under section 478)—

17 “(I) for single or separated stu-
 18 dents, or married students where both
 19 are enrolled pursuant to subsection
 20 (a)(2), of \$14,010 for academic year
 21 2020–2021; and

22 “(II) for married students where
 23 1 is enrolled pursuant to subsection
 24 (a)(2), of \$22,460 for academic year
 25 2020–2021;”.

(c) INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS
OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Section 477(b)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087qq(b)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) INCOME PROTECTION ALLOWANCE.—The income protection allowance is determined by the following table (or a successor table prescribed by the Secretary under section 478), for academic year 2020–2021:

“Income Protection Allowance						
Family Size	Number in College					
(including student)	1	2	3	4	5	For each additional subtract:
2	\$36,370	\$30,160				\$6,180
3	45,290	39,100	\$32,890			
4	55,920	49,720	43,540	\$37,300		
5	65,990	59,750	53,570	47,360	\$41,180	
6	77,170	70,960	64,790	58,540	52,370	
For each additional add:	8,710					”.

(d) UPDATED TABLES AND AMOUNTS.—Section 478(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087rr(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For each academic year after academic year 2020–2021, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a revised table of income protection allowances for the purpose of sections 475(c)(4) and

1 477(b)(4), subject to subparagraphs (B) and
 2 (C).

3 “(B) TABLE FOR INDEPENDENT STU-
 4 DENTS.—For each academic year after aca-
 5 demic year 2020–2021, the Secretary shall de-
 6 velop the revised table of income protection al-
 7 lowances by increasing each of the dollar
 8 amounts contained in the table of income pro-
 9 tection allowances under section 477(b)(4) by a
 10 percentage equal to the estimated percentage
 11 increase in the Consumer Price Index (as deter-
 12 mined by the Secretary for the most recent cal-
 13 endar year ending prior to the beginning of the
 14 academic year for which the determination is
 15 being made), and rounding the result to the
 16 nearest \$10.”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “shall be de-
 18 veloped” and all that follows through the period at
 19 the end and inserting “shall be developed for each
 20 academic year after academic year 2020–2021, by
 21 increasing each of the dollar amounts contained in
 22 such section for academic year 2020–2021 by a per-
 23 centage equal to the estimated percentage increase
 24 in the Consumer Price Index (as determined by the
 25 Secretary for the most recent calendar year ending

1 prior to the beginning of the academic year for
2 which the determination is being made), and round-
3 ing the result to the nearest \$10.”.

4 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall take effect beginning on July 1, 2020
6 and shall apply to grant and award determinations made
7 under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) beginning with the 2020–2021 award
9 year.

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