

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1666

To index the maximum value of Federal Pell Grants to inflation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. BERA, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. TRAN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To index the maximum value of Federal Pell Grants to inflation.

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 Grant Sustain-
5 ability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The purchasing power of the Federal Pell
 2 Grant has declined rapidly since the 1970s. In aca-
 3 demic year 1974–1975, the total maximum Federal
 4 Pell Grant covered 80 percent of base educational
 5 costs at public 4-year institutions of higher edu-
 6 cation. By academic year 2022–2023, the maximum
 7 Federal Pell Grant covered just 31 percent of those
 8 base costs.

9 (2) The value of Federal Pell Grants must keep
 10 pace with students’ costs in order to fulfill their mis-
 11 sion of enabling lower-income students to attend col-
 12 lege.

13 **SEC. 3. INDEXING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS TO INFLATION.**

14 Section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 15 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)) is amended—

16 (1) by amending paragraph (5) to read as fol-
 17 lows:

18 “(5) TOTAL MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL
 19 GRANT.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For award year 2024–
 21 2025 and each subsequent award year, the total
 22 maximum Federal Pell Grant award per stu-
 23 dent shall be equal to the sum of—

24 “(i)(I) for award year 2024–2025,
 25 \$1,060; or

1 “(II) for award year 2025–2026 and
2 each subsequent award year, the amount
3 determined under this clause for the pre-
4 ceding award year, increased by a percent-
5 age equal to the annual adjustment per-
6 centage for the award year for which the
7 amount under this clause is being deter-
8 mined; and

9 “(ii) the amount specified as the max-
10 imum Federal Pell Grant in the last en-
11 acted appropriation Act applicable to that
12 award year.

13 “(B) ROUNDING.—The total maximum
14 Federal Pell Grant for any award year shall be
15 rounded to the nearest \$5.

16 “(C) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT PERCENTAGE
17 DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘annual
18 adjustment percentage’, as applied to an award
19 year, is equal to the estimated percentage
20 change in the Consumer Price Index (as deter-
21 mined by the Secretary, using the definition in
22 section 478(f)) for the most recent calendar
23 year ending prior to the beginning of that
24 award year.”;

25 (2) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii)—

1 (A) by striking “each of the fiscal years”
2 and inserting “fiscal year”; and
3 (B) by striking “through 2034” and in-
4 serting “and each subsequent fiscal year”; and
5 (3) in paragraph (8)(A), by striking “through
6 fiscal year 2034”.

○