

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6606

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reauthorize the Federal work-study program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2025

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Ms. ADAMS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reauthorize the Federal work-study program, and for other purposes.

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 “Opportunities for Suc-
5 cess Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 Section 441 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1087–51) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “part, such
10 sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 and

1 each of the five succeeding fiscal years.” and insert-
2 ing “part—

3 “(1) \$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

4 “(2) \$1,750,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

5 “(3) \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

6 “(4) \$2,250,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

7 “(5) \$2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2031 and
8 each succeeding fiscal year.”;

9 (2) in subsection (c)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “child
11 development and early learning (including Head
12 Start and Early Head Start programs carried
13 out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831
14 et seq.)),”, before “literacy training,”;

15 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “and”;

16 (C) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking the
17 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(5) work-based learning designed to give stu-
20 dents experience in any activity described in para-
21 graph (1), (2), (3), or (4), without regard to whether
22 credit is awarded.”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(d) WORK-BASED LEARNING DEFINED.—For pur-
25 poses of this part, the term ‘work-based learning’ means

1 sustained interactions with industry, community, or aca-
 2 demic professionals in real workplace settings that—

3 “(1) include on campus opportunities;

4 “(2) foster in-depth, first-hand engagement
 5 with the tasks required of a given career field that
 6 are aligned with a student’s field of study; and

7 “(3) may include internships, fellowships, re-
 8 search assistant positions, teacher residencies, clin-
 9 ical experiences, community services, administrative
 10 positions, participation in cooperative education, and
 11 apprenticeships registered under the Act of August
 12 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Ap-
 13 prenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29
 14 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).”.

15 **SEC. 3. ALLOCATION FORMULA.**

16 Section 442 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 17 U.S.C. 1087–52) is amended to read as follows:

18 **“SEC. 442. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**

19 “(a) RESERVATIONS.—

20 “(1) RESERVATION FOR IMPROVED INSTITU-
 21 TIONS.—

22 “(A) AMOUNT OF RESERVATION FOR IM-
 23 PROVED INSTITUTIONS.—Beginning with fiscal
 24 year 2027, for any fiscal year in which the

1 amount appropriated under section 441(b) ex-
2 ceeds \$700,000,000, the Secretary shall—

3 “(i) reserve the lesser of—

4 “(I) an amount equal to 20 per-
5 cent of the amount by which the
6 amount appropriated under section
7 441(b) exceeds \$700,000,000; or

8 “(II) \$150,000,000; and

9 “(ii) allocate the amount reserved
10 under clause (i) to each improved institu-
11 tion in an amount equal to the greater
12 of—

13 “(I) the amount that bears the
14 same proportion to the amount re-
15 served under clause (i) as the total
16 amount of all Federal Pell Grant
17 funds awarded at the improved insti-
18 tution for the second preceding fiscal
19 year bears to the total amount of Fed-
20 eral Pell Grant funds awarded at im-
21 proved institutions participating under
22 this part for the second preceding fis-
23 cal year; or

24 “(II) \$5,000.

1 “(B) DEFINITION OF IMPROVED INSTITU-
2 TION.—As used in this paragraph, the term
3 ‘improved institution’ means an institution that,
4 on the date on which the Secretary makes an
5 allocation under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

6 “(i) is an institution of higher edu-
7 cation (as defined under section 102) par-
8 ticipating under this part; and

9 “(ii) with respect to—

10 “(I) the completion rate of Fed-
11 eral Pell Grant recipients at an insti-
12 tution, is in the top 75 percent of all
13 institutions participating under this
14 part for the preceding fiscal year;

15 “(II) the percentage of students
16 at an institution who are Federal Pell
17 Grant recipients, has a greater per-
18 centage of such students at the insti-
19 tution than at least 50 percent of the
20 institutions participating under this
21 part for the preceding fiscal year; and

22 “(III) the annual increase in the
23 completion rate of Federal Pell Grant
24 recipients at an institution, has an an-
25 nual increase that is greater than the

1 annual increase of at least 50 percent
2 of the institutions participating under
3 this part for the preceding fiscal year.

4 “(C) COMPLETION RATE.—For purposes of
5 determining the completion rate of an institu-
6 tion under this section, a Federal Pell Grant re-
7 cipient who is either a full-time student or a
8 part-time student shall be counted as a
9 completer if, within 150 percent of the normal
10 time for completion of or graduation from the
11 program, the student has completed or grad-
12 uated from the program, or enrolled in any pro-
13 gram of an institution participating in any pro-
14 gram under this title for which the prior pro-
15 gram provides substantial preparation.

16 “(2) RESERVATION FOR GRANT PROGRAM.—
17 From the amount appropriated under section 441(b)
18 for a fiscal year and remaining after the Secretary
19 reserves funds under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
20 retary shall reserve \$30,000,000 to carry out grants
21 under section 449.

22 “(3) REALLOCATION OF AMOUNT RETURNED BY
23 IMPROVED INSTITUTIONS.—If an institution returns
24 to the Secretary any portion of the sums allocated
25 to such institution under this subsection for any fis-

cal year, the Secretary shall reallocate the excess to improved institutions on the same basis as under paragraph (1)(A).

“(4) PUBLICATION.—Beginning 1 year after the first allocations are made to improved institutions under paragraph (1)(A) and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly available—

“(A) a list of the improved institutions that received funding under that paragraph for the prior fiscal year; and

“(B) for each such improved institution—

“(i) the percentage of students who are Federal Pell Grant recipients;

“(ii) the completion rate for students who are Federal Pell Grant recipients; and

“(iii) a comparison between the information described in clauses (i) and (ii) for the prior fiscal year and such information for the fiscal year that is two years prior.

“(b) ALLOCATION FORMULA FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027 THROUGH 2031.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount appropriated under section 441(b) for a fiscal year and remaining after the Secretary reserves funds under

1 subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall al-
2 locate to each institution—

3 “(A) for fiscal year 2027, an amount equal
4 to the greater of—

5 “(i) 90 percent of the amount the in-
6 stitution received under this subsection
7 and subsection (a) for fiscal year 2026, as
8 those subsections were in effect with re-
9 spect to that fiscal year (in this subpara-
10 graph referred to as ‘the 2026 amount for
11 the institution’); or

12 “(ii) the fair share amount for the in-
13 stitution determined under subsection (d);

14 “(B) for fiscal year 2028, an amount equal
15 to the greater of—

16 “(i) 80 percent of the 2026 amount
17 for the institution; or

18 “(ii) the fair share amount for the in-
19 stitution determined under subsection (d);

20 “(C) for fiscal year 2029, an amount equal
21 to the greater of—

22 “(i) 60 percent of the 2026 amount
23 for the institution; or

24 “(ii) the fair share amount for the in-
25 stitution determined under subsection (d);

1 “(D) for fiscal year 2030, an amount equal
2 to the greater of—

3 “(i) 40 percent of the 2026 amount
4 for the institution; or

5 “(ii) the fair share amount for the in-
6 stitution determined under subsection (d);
7 and

8 “(E) for fiscal year 2031, an amount equal
9 to the greater of—

10 “(i) 20 percent of the 2026 amount
11 for the institution; or

12 “(ii) the fair share amount for the in-
13 stitution determined under subsection (d).

14 “(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the amount appro-
16 priated under section 441(b) for a fiscal year
17 and remaining after the Secretary reserves
18 funds under subsection (a) of this section is less
19 than the amount required to be allocated to the
20 institutions under this subsection, then the
21 amount of the allocation to each institution
22 shall be ratably reduced.

23 “(B) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.—If
24 the amounts allocated to each institution are
25 ratably reduced under subparagraph (A) for a

1 fiscal year and additional amounts are appro-
2 priated for that fiscal year, the amount allo-
3 cated to each institution from the additional
4 amounts shall be increased on the same basis as
5 the basis on which the amounts under subpara-
6 graph (A) were reduced (until each institution
7 receives the amount required to be allocated
8 under this subsection).

9 “(c) ALLOCATION FORMULA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2031
10 AND EACH SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—Except as pro-
11 vided in subsection (d)(4), from the amount appropriated
12 under section 441(b) for fiscal year 2031 and each suc-
13 ceeding fiscal year and remaining after the Secretary re-
14 serves funds under subsection (a) of this section, the Sec-
15 retary shall allocate to each institution the fair share
16 amount for the institution determined under subsection
17 (d).

18 “(d) DETERMINATION OF FAIR SHARE AMOUNT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The fair share amount for
20 an institution for a fiscal year is the sum of—

21 “(A) 100 percent of the institutional un-
22 dergraduate student need calculated under
23 paragraph (2) for the preceding fiscal year; and

1 “(B) 25 percent of the institutional grad-
2 uate student need calculated under paragraph
3 (3) for the preceding fiscal year.

4 “(2) INSTITUTIONAL UNDERGRADUATE STU-
5 DENT NEED CALCULATION.—The institutional un-
6 dergraduate student need for an institution for a fis-
7 cal year is the sum of the following:

8 “(A) An amount equal to 50 percent of the
9 amount that bears the same proportion to the
10 available appropriated amount for that fiscal
11 year as the total amount of Federal Pell Grant
12 funds awarded at the institution for the pre-
13 ceding fiscal year bears to the total amount of
14 Federal Pell Grant funds awarded at all institu-
15 tions participating under this part for the pre-
16 ceding fiscal year.

17 “(B) An amount equal to 50 percent of the
18 amount that bears the same proportion to the
19 available appropriated amount for that fiscal
20 year as the total amount of the undergraduate
21 student need at the institution for the preceding
22 fiscal year bears to the total amount of under-
23 graduate student need at all institutions partici-
24 pating under this part for the preceding fiscal
25 year.

1 “(3) INSTITUTIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT
2 NEED CALCULATION.—The institutional graduate
3 student need for an institution for a fiscal year is
4 the amount that bears the same proportion to the
5 available appropriated amount for such fiscal year as
6 the total amount of the graduate student need at the
7 institution for the preceding fiscal year bears to the
8 total amount of graduate student need at all institu-
9 tions participating under this part for the preceding
10 fiscal year.

11 “(4) ELIGIBILITY FOR FAIR SHARE AMOUNT.—
12 Beginning in fiscal year 2027, the Secretary may
13 not allocate funds under this part for a fiscal year
14 to any institution that, for at least two of the three
15 fiscal years preceding such fiscal year, has—

16 “(A) a student population with less than 7
17 percent of undergraduate students who are re-
18 cipients of Federal Pell Grants; or

19 “(B) in the case of an institution that en-
20 rolls only graduate students, a student popu-
21 lation with less than 5 percent of students who
22 have a student aid index of zero.

23 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—The following definitions
24 apply to this subsection:

1 “(A) AVAILABLE APPROPRIATED
2 AMOUNT.—The term ‘available appropriated
3 amount’ means—

4 “(i) the amount appropriated under
5 section 441(b) for a fiscal year, minus

6 “(ii) the amounts reserved under sub-
7 section (a) of this section for that fiscal
8 year.

9 “(B) AVERAGE COST OF ATTENDANCE.—
10 The term ‘average cost of attendance’ means,
11 with respect to an institution, the average of
12 the attendance costs for a fiscal year for stu-
13 dents, which includes—

14 “(i) tuition and fees, computed on the
15 basis of information reported by the insti-
16 tution to the Secretary, which includes—

17 “(I) total revenue received by the
18 institution from undergraduate and
19 graduate tuition and fees for the sec-
20 ond year preceding the year for which
21 it is applying for an allocation; and

22 “(II) the institution’s enrollment
23 for that second preceding year;

24 “(ii) standard living expenses equal to
25 150 percent of the difference between the

1 income protection allowance for a family of
2 five and the income protection allowance
3 for a family of six for a single independent
4 student; and

5 “(iii) books and supplies, in an
6 amount not exceeding \$1,000, adjusted an-
7 nually thereafter in accordance with infla-
8 tion as determined by the Department of
9 Labor’s Consumer Price Index for the pre-
10 vious calendar year.

11 “(C) GRADUATE STUDENT NEED.—The
12 term ‘graduate student need’ (except when used
13 as part of the term ‘institutional graduate stu-
14 dent need’) means, with respect to a graduate
15 or professional student for a fiscal year, the
16 lesser of the following:

17 “(i) The amount equal to (except the
18 amount computed by this clause shall not
19 be less than zero)—

20 “(I) the average cost of attend-
21 ance for the preceding fiscal year,
22 minus

23 “(II) the graduate or professional
24 student’s student aid index (computed

1 in accordance with part F of this
2 title) for the preceding fiscal year.

3 “(ii) The maximum annual loan
4 amount for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized
5 Stafford Loan for a graduate or profes-
6 sional student, as applicable.

7 “(D) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEED.—
8 The term ‘undergraduate student need’ (except
9 when used as part of the term ‘institutional un-
10 dergraduate student need’) means, with respect
11 to an undergraduate student for a fiscal year,
12 the lesser of the following:

13 “(i) The total of the amount equal to
14 (except the amount computed by this
15 clause shall not be less than zero)—

16 “(I) the average cost of attend-
17 ance for the preceding fiscal year,
18 minus

19 “(II) the undergraduate student’s
20 student aid index (computed in ac-
21 cordance with part F of this title) for
22 the preceding fiscal year.

23 “(ii) The total of—

24 “(I) the maximum annual loan
25 amount of a Federal Direct Unsub-

1 sidized Stafford Loan applicable to
2 such undergraduate student; and

3 “(II) only in the case of a stu-
4 dent who receives a Federal Direct
5 Stafford Loan for such fiscal year, the
6 maximum annual loan amount of a
7 Federal Direct Stafford Loan applica-
8 ble to such undergraduate student.

9 “(e) RETURN OF SURPLUS ALLOCATED FUNDS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except with respect to
11 funds returned under subsection (a)(3), if an institu-
12 tion returns to the Secretary any portion of the
13 sums allocated to the institution under this section
14 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate the ex-
15 cess, in the following award year, to institutions that
16 used at least 10 percent of the total amount of
17 funds granted to the institution under this section to
18 compensate students employed during a qualified pe-
19 riod of nonenrollment (as such term is defined in
20 section 443(f)) on the same basis as the basis on
21 which fair share amounts are determined under sub-
22 section (d).

23 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Each institution shall, to
24 maximum extent practicable, use funds received pur-

1 suant to this subsection to compensate students em-
 2 ployed in work-based learning positions.

3 “(3) RETAINED FUNDS.—

4 “(A) AMOUNT RETURNED.—If an institu-
 5 tion returns more than 10 percent of its alloca-
 6 tion under paragraph (1), the institution’s allo-
 7 cation for the next fiscal year shall be reduced
 8 by the amount returned.

9 “(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
 10 subparagraph (A) for a specific institution if
 11 the Secretary finds that enforcing that subpara-
 12 graph would be contrary to the interest of the
 13 program.

14 “(f) FILING DEADLINES.—The Secretary may re-
 15 quire applications under this section, at such time, in such
 16 manner, and containing such information as the Secretary
 17 may require.”.

18 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS.**

19 Section 443 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 20 U.S.C. 1087–53) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
 23 follows:

24 “(2) provide that funds granted to an institu-
 25 tion of higher education pursuant to this section

1 may be used only to make payments to students par-
2 ticipating in work-study programs, except that an in-
3 stitution—

4 “(A) shall, beginning in fiscal year 2028—

5 “(i) use at least 3 percent of the total
6 amount of funds granted to the institution
7 under this section for that fiscal year to
8 compensate students who have exceptional
9 need (as defined in section 413C(c)(2))
10 and are employed in a work-based learning
11 position during a qualified period of non-
12 enrollment, as defined in subsection (f);

13 “(ii) use at least 7 percent of the total
14 amount of funds granted to the institution
15 under this section for that fiscal year to
16 compensate students employed in work-
17 based learning positions; and

18 “(iii) use at least 7 percent of the
19 total amount of funds granted to the insti-
20 tution under this section for that fiscal
21 year to compensate students employed in
22 community service, and shall ensure that
23 not less than 1 tutoring or family literacy
24 project (as described in subsection (d)) is

1 included in meeting the requirement of this
2 subparagraph,
3 except that the Secretary may waive a clause
4 under this subparagraph with respect to an in-
5 stitution if the Secretary determines that en-
6 forcing that clause would cause hardship for
7 students at the institution; and

8 “(B) may—

9 “(i) use a portion of the sums granted
10 to it to meet administrative expenses in ac-
11 cordance with section 489;

12 “(ii) use a portion of the sums grant-
13 ed to it to meet the cost of a job location
14 and development program in accordance
15 with section 446; and

16 “(iii) transfer funds in accordance
17 with section 488;”;

18 (B) in paragraph (4)—

19 (i) by striking “\$300” and inserting
20 “\$500”; and

21 (ii) by inserting “except as provided
22 under subsection (f),” before “provide”;

23 (C) in paragraph (5)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by strik-
25 ing “and” at the end;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
2 “and” after the semicolon; and

3 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(C) the Federal share shall equal 100
6 percent if the institution is eligible for assist-
7 ance under title III or title V;”;

8 (D) in paragraph (6)—

9 (i) by inserting “who demonstrate ex-
10 ceptional need (as defined in section
11 413C(c)(2))” after “students”; and

12 (ii) by inserting “and prioritize em-
13 ployment for students who are currently
14 homeless individuals described in section
15 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
16 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a) or foster
17 care youth” after “institution”;

18 (E) in paragraph (7), by striking “voca-
19 tional” and inserting “career”;

20 (F) in paragraph (8)(A)(i), by striking “or
21 vocational goals” and inserting “career goals”;

22 (G) in paragraph (10), by striking “; and”
23 and inserting a semicolon;

24 (H) by redesignating paragraph (11) as
25 paragraph (15); and

1 (I) by inserting after paragraph (10) the
2 following new paragraphs:

3 “(11) provide an assurance that compensation
4 of students employed in the work-study program in
5 accordance with the agreement shall include reim-
6 bursement for reasonable travel (not including the
7 purchase or lease of a vehicle) directly related to the
8 work-study program;

9 “(12) provide an assurance that the institution
10 will administer and use feedback from the surveys
11 required under section 449A to improve the experi-
12 ences of students employed in the work-study pro-
13 gram in accordance with the agreement;

14 “(13) provide an assurance that the institution
15 will collect data from students and employers so that
16 the employment made available from funds provided
17 under this part will, to the maximum extent prac-
18 ticable, complement and reinforce the educational
19 goals or career goals of each student receiving as-
20 sistance under this part;

21 “(14) provide an assurance that if the institu-
22 tion receives funds under section 442(a)(1)(A), the
23 institution shall—

1 “(A) use the funds to compensate students
2 employed in the work-study program in accord-
3 ance with the agreement; and

4 “(B) prioritize the awarding of the funds
5 (and increasing the amount of each award) to
6 students—

7 “(i) who demonstrate exceptional need
8 (as defined in section 413C(c)(2)); and

9 “(ii) who are employed in work-based
10 learning opportunities through the work-
11 study program in accordance with the
12 agreement; and”;

13 (2) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
15 follows:

16 “(2) provide that—

17 “(A) in the case of an institution that has
18 not received a waiver from the Secretary, such
19 institution will not use more than 25 percent of
20 the funds made available to such institution
21 under this part for any fiscal year for the oper-
22 ation of the program described in paragraph
23 (1); and

24 “(B) in the case of an institution that has
25 received a waiver from the Secretary, the insti-

1 tution will not use more than 50 percent of the
2 funds made available to the institution under
3 this part for any fiscal year for the operation of
4 the program described in paragraph (1);”;

5 (B) in paragraph (4)—

6 (i) by inserting “and complement and
7 reinforce the educational goals or career
8 goals of each student receiving assistance
9 under this part” after “academically rel-
10 evant”; and

11 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

12 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
13 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (D) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(6) provide an assurance that the compensa-
16 tion of students employed in the work-study pro-
17 gram in accordance with the agreement shall include
18 reimbursement for reasonable travel (not including
19 the purchase or lease of a vehicle) directly related to
20 such work-study program.”;

21 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

22 (A) by striking “In any academic year to
23 which subsection (b)(2)(A) applies, an institu-
24 tion shall ensure that funds granted to such in-
25 stitution under this section are used in accord-

1 ance with such subsection” and inserting “An
2 institution may use the funds granted to such
3 institution under this section”; and

4 (B) by striking “travel” and inserting
5 “reasonable travel (not including the purchase
6 or lease of a vehicle)”; and

7 (4) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(f) QUALIFIED PERIOD OF NONENROLLMENT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A student may be awarded
10 work-study employment during a qualified period of
11 nonenrollment if—

12 “(A) the student demonstrates exceptional
13 need (as defined in section 413C(c)(2)) in the
14 award year prior to the qualified period of non-
15 enrollment;

16 “(B) the student is employed in a work-
17 based learning position; and

18 “(C) the employment—

19 “(i) involves less than 25 percent ad-
20 ministrative work; and

21 “(ii) is for at least 20 hours per week,
22 unless the institution waives that require-
23 ment—

24 “(I) at the request of the stu-
25 dent; or

1 “(II) based on a finding by the
2 institution that the requirement pre-
3 sents a hardship in finding a work-
4 based learning position for the stu-
5 dent.

6 “(2) FUNDS EARNED.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any funds earned by
8 a student (beyond standard living expenses (as
9 such term is described in section
10 413D(c)(3)(C))) during the qualified period of
11 nonenrollment less than or equal to \$2,500 may
12 not be applied to the student’s cost of attend-
13 ance for the next period in which the student
14 is enrolled.

15 “(B) EXCESS FUNDS.—Any funds earned
16 by a student (beyond standard living expenses
17 (as such term is described in section
18 413D(c)(3)(C))) during the qualified period of
19 nonenrollment in excess of \$2,500 shall be ap-
20 plied to the student’s cost of attendance for the
21 next period in which the student is enrolled.

22 “(3) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED PERIOD OF
23 NONENROLLMENT.—In this subsection, the term
24 ‘qualified period of nonenrollment’ means, with re-
25 spect to a student, a period of nonenrollment—

1 “(A) that occurs between a period of en-
2 rollment and a period of anticipated enrollment;
3 and

4 “(B) the duration of which is no longer
5 than 6 months.

6 “(g) COOPERATIVE EDUCATION.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A student may be awarded
8 work-study employment for participation in coopera-
9 tive education on—

10 “(A) a part-time basis; or

11 “(B) a full-time basis for a period equal to
12 or less than 6 months.

13 “(2) PRIVATE AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATIVE
14 EDUCATION.—As part of its agreement described in
15 subsection (b), an institution of higher education
16 may, at its option, enter into an additional agree-
17 ment with the Secretary that provides for the oper-
18 ation by the institution of a program of cooperative
19 education of its students (on the basis described in
20 subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1)) by a pri-
21 vate for-profit organization under an agreement be-
22 tween the institution and the organization that com-
23 plies with subsection (c).

24 “(3) FULL-TIME BASIS PERIOD.—The period
25 specified in paragraph (1)(B) may be non-consecu-

1 tive and include participation during qualified peri-
2 ods of nonenrollment (as defined in subsection
3 (f)(3)).

4 “(4) COOPERATIVE EDUCATION DEFINED.—In
5 this subsection, the term ‘cooperative education’
6 means a program of alternating or parallel periods
7 of academic study and work-based learning designed
8 to give students work experiences related to their
9 academic or career objectives.

10 “(h) NOTIFICATION REGARDING SNAP.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

12 “(A) NOTIFICATION.—An institution re-
13 ceiving a grant under this part shall notify (by
14 email or other electronic means) each eligible
15 student of their potential eligibility for partici-
16 pation in the Supplemental Nutritional Assist-
17 ance Program (SNAP) under the Food and Nu-
18 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) and
19 the process for obtaining more information,
20 confirming eligibility, and accessing benefits
21 under that program.

22 “(B) DEVELOPMENT.—The notice under
23 this paragraph shall be developed by the Sec-
24 retary in consultation with the Secretary of Ag-
25 riculture, and shall include details on eligibility

1 requirements for participation in SNAP that a
2 student must satisfy.

3 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The notice under
4 this paragraph shall, to the extent practicable,
5 be specific to the student’s State of residence
6 and shall provide contact information for the
7 local office where an application for SNAP may
8 be made.

9 “(2) EVIDENCE OF PARTICIPATION IN FEDER-
10 ALLY FINANCED WORK-STUDY PROGRAM.—The no-
11 tice under paragraph (1) shall include an official
12 document notifying the recipient that they are po-
13 tentially an eligible student sufficient for purposes of
14 demonstrating that the exclusion from ineligibility
15 for participation in the SNAP under section 6(e)(4)
16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
17 2015(e)(4)) applies to the student.

18 “(3) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Education,
19 in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture,
20 shall provide guidance to States and institutions of
21 higher education on how to identify and commu-
22 nicate with students who are likely to be eligible for
23 the SNAP, including those eligible for a State or
24 federally financed work-study program.

1 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subsection,
2 the term ‘eligible student’ means a student receiving
3 work-study assistance under this part.”.

4 **SEC. 5. FLEXIBLE USE OF FUNDS.**

5 Section 445 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 1087–55) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(3) In addition to the carry-over sums author-
10 ized under paragraph (1), an institution may permit
11 a student who completed the previous award period
12 to continue to earn unearned portions of the stu-
13 dent’s work-study award from that previous period
14 if—

15 “(A) any reduction in the student’s need
16 on which the award was based is accounted for
17 in the remaining portion; and

18 “(B) the student is currently employed in
19 a work-based learning position.”; and

20 (2) by striking “10 percent” both places it ap-
21 pears and inserting “20 percent”.

22 **SEC. 6. JOB LOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.**

23 Section 446 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
24 U.S.C. 1087–56) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “10 per-
2 cent or \$75,000” and inserting “20 percent or
3 \$150,000”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “voca-
5 tional” and inserting “career”; and
6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2);

8 (B) by inserting before paragraph (3) the
9 following:

10 “(1) provide satisfactory assurance that the in-
11 stitution will prioritize placing students with excep-
12 tional need (as defined in section 413C(c)(2)) and
13 Federal work-study recipients in jobs located and de-
14 veloped under this section; and

15 “(2) provide satisfactory assurances that the
16 funds available under this section will be used to lo-
17 cate and develop work-based learning positions;”;
18 and

19 (C) in paragraph (6), by striking the pe-
20 riod and inserting “, including—

21 “(A) the number of students employed in
22 work-based learning positions through the pro-
23 gram;

24 “(B) the number of students dem-
25 onstrating exceptional need (as defined in sec-

1 tion 413C(e)(2)) who are Federal work-study
2 recipients employed through the program; and

3 “(C) the number of students dem-
4 onstrating exceptional need (as defined in sec-
5 tion 413C(e)(2)) who are Federal work-study
6 recipients employed in work-based learning po-
7 sitions through the program.”.

8 **SEC. 7. COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

9 Section 447 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
10 U.S.C. 1087–57) is amended to read as follows:

11 **“SEC. 447. ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO CONDUCT COMMUNITY**
12 **SERVICE WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS.**

13 “Each institution participating under this part may
14 use up to 10 percent of the funds made available under
15 section 489(a) and attributable to the amount of the insti-
16 tution’s expenditures under this part to conduct that insti-
17 tution’s program of community service-learning, includ-
18 ing—

19 “(1) development of mechanisms to ensure the
20 academic quality of the student experience;

21 “(2) ensuring student access to educational re-
22 sources, expertise, and supervision necessary to
23 achieve community service objectives;

24 “(3) ensuring, to the maximum extent prac-
25 ticable, that the community service-learning program

1 will support the educational goals or career goals of
 2 students participating in the program;

3 “(4) collaboration with public and private non-
 4 profit agencies, and programs assisted under the
 5 National and Community Service Act of 1990 in the
 6 planning, development, and administration of those
 7 programs; and

8 “(5) recruiting and compensating students for
 9 community service-learning (including compensation
 10 for time spent in training and for reasonable travel
 11 (not including the purchase or lease of a vehicle) di-
 12 rectly related to the community service).”.

13 **SEC. 8. AMENDMENTS TO WORK COLLEGES.**

14 Section 448 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 15 U.S.C. 1087–58) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “student”
 17 after “comprehensive”;

18 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting “stu-
 19 dent” after “comprehensive”;

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) by striking “Each eligible institution”
 22 and inserting the following:

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution”;

24 and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(2) APPLICATION DATES.—The Secretary shall
 2 require an eligible institution that submits an appli-
 3 cation under this section for the first time to submit
 4 the application at least 5 months prior to the appli-
 5 cation due date for returning applicants.”; and

6 (4) in subsection (e)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by striking subparagraph (B) and
 9 inserting the following:

10 “(B) is accredited by an accrediting agency
 11 or association recognized by the Secretary pur-
 12 suant to part H, has operated a work-study
 13 program under this part for at least the 2 years
 14 preceding the date of the determination, and
 15 has operated a comprehensive student work-
 16 learning-service program for at least the 2
 17 years preceding the date of the determination;”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
 19 “student” after “comprehensive”; and

20 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
 21 “student” after “comprehensive”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
 24 (A) through (F) as subparagraphs (B)
 25 through (G), respectively; and

1 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph
 2 (B), as redesignated by clause (i), the fol-
 3 lowing:

4 “(A) is a 4-year, degree-granting pro-
 5 gram;”.

6 **SEC. 9. PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
 8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.), as amended by this
 9 Act, is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 **“SEC. 449. WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PILOT**
 12 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
 15 lish a program to provide grants to eligible institu-
 16 tions participating under this part to establish or ex-
 17 pand a program to develop work-based learning posi-
 18 tions.

19 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—

20 “(A) DURATION.—A grant awarded under
 21 this section shall be for a period of not more
 22 than 4 years, but may be renewed by the Sec-
 23 retary for a period of 2 years.

1 “(B) AMOUNT.—A grant under this sec-
2 tion may not be in an amount greater than
3 \$1,000,000.

4 “(b) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a grant
5 under this section an eligible institution participating
6 under this part shall submit an application to the Sec-
7 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such
8 information as the Secretary may require, including a plan
9 that describes how the eligible institution will establish or
10 expand a program to develop work-based learning posi-
11 tions that will—

12 “(1) benefit students who demonstrate excep-
13 tional need (as defined in section 413C(c)(2));

14 “(2) identify in-demand industry sectors and
15 occupations (as defined in section 3 of the Work-
16 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
17 3102) and as determined by the Bureau of Labor
18 and Statistics, State departments of labor, and local
19 boards (as defined in such section 3)) and develop
20 partnerships with high-demand employers (including
21 nonprofit organizations, joint labor-management or-
22 ganizations, for-profit firms, or public agencies);

23 “(3) involve participating employers in evalu-
24 ating and improving the program;

1 “(4) track and report academic and employ-
2 ment outcomes for participating students; and

3 “(5) be able to continue after the end of the
4 grant term.

5 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Institutions receiving grant
6 funds awarded under this program shall use these funds
7 to pay wages for students participating under this pro-
8 gram and develop work-based learning positions that—

9 “(1) are for a period of at least 12 weeks;

10 “(2) serve students who demonstrate excep-
11 tional need (as defined in section 413C(c)(2));

12 “(3) limit administrative work to no more than
13 25 percent of the position;

14 “(4) provide a minimum of 15 hours of work
15 per week during periods of enrollment and 30 hours
16 per week during periods of nonenrollment, except
17 that this requirement may be waived by the institu-
18 tion in consultation with a student;

19 “(5) include career coaching from participating
20 employers (including mock interviews, resume writ-
21 ing assistance, career exploration, and counseling on
22 applying for and obtaining employment); and

23 “(6) provide participating students with oppor-
24 tunities to meet with employers in fields or indus-
25 tries related to those of participating employers.

1 “(d) REPORT.—On a date that is before the date on
2 which the period of the grant received by an eligible insti-
3 tution under this section terminates, the institution shall
4 submit a report to the Secretary including—

5 “(1) the completion rate (as described under
6 section 442(a)(1)(C)) with respect to students par-
7 ticipating in work-based learning positions under the
8 pilot program; and

9 “(2) the results of the work-based learning op-
10 portunities program for which the institution re-
11 ceived the grant, including—

12 “(A) participating students’ satisfaction
13 with the program as reported in surveys under
14 section 449A;

15 “(B) the types of jobs in which partici-
16 pating students were employed and the types of
17 duties performed in those jobs;

18 “(C) the academic programs of the partici-
19 pating students;

20 “(D) the share of participating students
21 who worked at another job, in addition to the
22 one under the pilot program;

23 “(E) the percentage of participating stu-
24 dents who, during the second quarter after
25 completing their academic program, are in edu-

1 cation or training activities or unsubsidized em-
 2 ployment;

3 “(F) the percentage of participating stu-
 4 dents employed in in-demand industry sectors
 5 or occupations as described in subsection (b)(2)
 6 within 2 quarters of completing their academic
 7 programs; and

8 “(G) other items as deemed relevant by the
 9 Secretary.

10 “(e) RESERVATION OF FUNDING FOR SUCH PRO-
 11 GRAM.—From the amount appropriated under section
 12 441(b) for a fiscal year and remaining after the Secretary
 13 reserves funds under section 442(a)(1), the Secretary shall
 14 reserve \$30,000,000 to make grants under this section.”.

15 **SEC. 10. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES.**

16 Part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
 17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.), as amended by this
 18 Act, is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 **“SEC. 449A. DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES.**

21 “(a) SURVEYS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
 22 of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall de-
 23 velop, in consultation with work-study administrators from
 24 institutions of higher education, participating employers,
 25 and participating students—

1 “(1) a consumer-tested electronic survey for
2 students awarded work-study employment under the
3 Federal work-study program under this part that—

4 “(A) measures each student’s satisfaction
5 with the Federal work-study program, includ-
6 ing—

7 “(i) any complaints the student has
8 with respect to the program;

9 “(ii) the amount and quality of the
10 on-the-job training the student received;

11 “(iii) the amount and quality of on-
12 the-job supervision and employer feedback
13 the student received;

14 “(iv) the amount and quality of infor-
15 mation provided by the institution about
16 the work-study program and job opportuni-
17 ties and the availability of work-study staff
18 at the institution;

19 “(v) the quality of the assistance pro-
20 vided by the institution to the student in
21 finding a work-study job and the avail-
22 ability of types of jobs; and

23 “(vi) the student’s overall satisfaction
24 with the work-study program;

1 “(B) measures the applicability of work-
2 study employment to the educational goals and
3 career goals of each student;

4 “(C) elicits an assessment by each student
5 of the capacity to manage time between work-
6 study employment and coursework;

7 “(D) measures, with respect to the pro-
8 gram—

9 “(i) the award amounts under the
10 program;

11 “(ii) the average number of hours stu-
12 dents worked per week, and the wages re-
13 ceived for that work;

14 “(iii) the number of on campus jobs
15 and off campus jobs;

16 “(iv) how students located work-study
17 positions;

18 “(v) the work performed at each job;

19 “(vi) whether students worked addi-
20 tional jobs while employed in a work-study
21 job (and the reason for any additional job);

22 “(vii) whether the work-study employ-
23 ment had an impact on the student’s aca-
24 demic performance; and

1 “(viii) the voluntarily disclosed demo-
2 graphics of students awarded work-study
3 employment; and

4 “(E) includes such information as the Sec-
5 retary may require;

6 “(2) a consumer-tested electronic survey for
7 employers of students described in paragraph (1)
8 that—

9 “(A) measures each employer’s satisfaction
10 with the Federal work-study program, includ-
11 ing—

12 “(i) the extent to which the employer
13 is satisfied with its ability to accommodate
14 students’ schedules;

15 “(ii) the extent to which student-em-
16 ployees are prepared for the duties adver-
17 tised for the job; and

18 “(iii) the extent to which the employer
19 is satisfied with opportunities to make rec-
20 ommendations for improving institutions’
21 academic programs;

22 “(B) elicits an assessment by each such
23 employer of—

24 “(i) any complaints the employer had
25 with respect to the program;

1 “(ii) any skills or knowledge necessary
2 for the job that student-employees are
3 lacking; and

4 “(iii) the extent of outreach from in-
5 stitutions to the employer; and

6 “(C) includes such information as the Sec-
7 retary may require; and

8 “(3) a consumer-tested electronic survey that,
9 not less than once every 4 years, with respect to
10 each institution of higher education participating in
11 the Federal work-study program, measures—

12 “(A) methods used to recruit on-campus
13 and off-campus employers;

14 “(B) if an institution operates a job loca-
15 tion development program—

16 “(i) the share of jobs filled on-campus
17 and off-campus;

18 “(ii) the share of jobs filled by—

19 “(I) work-study recipients; and

20 “(II) students who demonstrate
21 exceptional need (as defined in section
22 413C(c)(2));

23 “(iii) the primary factors considered
24 in matching work-study students and jobs;

1 “(iv) the share of students employed
2 in work-based learning opportunities; and

3 “(v) the share of students employed
4 during qualified periods of nonenrollment,
5 including the share of students with excep-
6 tional need (as defined in section
7 413C(c)(2)) employed during qualified pe-
8 riods of nonenrollment;

9 “(C) the institution’s Federal and non-
10 Federal contributions toward work-study wages;

11 “(D) the primary factors considered in
12 awarding students work-study and in deter-
13 mining the amount of the award;

14 “(E) the acceptance rate among students
15 who were offered work-study aid; and

16 “(F) other information the Secretary may
17 require.

18 “(b) RESULTS.—The Secretary shall develop an on-
19 line portal—

20 “(1) for students, employers, and institutions of
21 higher education to access the surveys required
22 under subsection (a); and

23 “(2) to compile the results of those surveys.

1 “(c) REPORT.—Not less than once every 4 years after
2 the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary
3 shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

4 “(1) the data collected under this section (re-
5 dacted for personal information);

6 “(2) with respect to students employed in work-
7 study through the Federal work-study program—

8 “(A) the types of jobs the students partici-
9 pated in;

10 “(B) the average hours worked per week;

11 “(C) the average award amount;

12 “(D) the average wage rates;

13 “(E) the extent to which students enter
14 employment with skills and knowledge gained
15 from work-study participation that have pre-
16 pared them for the job; and

17 “(F) the students’ satisfaction with the
18 program and primary complaints;

19 “(3) the extent to which institutions conduct
20 outreach to employers and engage them in discus-
21 sions on improving academic programs;

22 “(4) the extent to which institutions conduct
23 outreach to students and make jobs readily avail-
24 able;

1 “(5) the extent to which the work-study employ-
2 ment aligns with students’ academic programs or ca-
3 reer goals;

4 “(6) the employers’ satisfaction with the pro-
5 gram and primary complaints; and

6 “(7) recommendations for improving the pro-
7 gram.

8 “(d) CONSULTATION.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In consulting with the enti-
10 ties described in subsection (a) to create the elec-
11 tronic surveys required under that subsection, the
12 Secretary shall engage with—

13 “(A) a representative sample of institu-
14 tions of higher education participating in the
15 Federal work-study program;

16 “(B) a representative sample of employers
17 participating in the Federal work-study pro-
18 gram; and

19 “(C) a representative sample of students
20 participating in the Federal work-study pro-
21 gram.

22 “(2) RESPONSE RATE.—The Secretary shall—

23 “(A) consult with a survey consultant to
24 develop a target response rate with respect to

1 the electronic surveys required under subsection
2 (a); and

3 “(B) provide guidance to institution with
4 respect to the developed target response rate.

5 “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
6 shall—

7 “(1) provide technical assistance to institutions
8 participating under the Federal work-study program
9 under this part to—

10 “(A) comply with the amendments made
11 by the Opportunities for Success Act of 2025
12 and the regulations issued pursuant to those
13 amendments;

14 “(B) administer the surveys described in
15 subsection (a) to students and employers par-
16 ticipating in the Federal work-study program;
17 and

18 “(C) ensure that Federal work-study posi-
19 tions align with students’ educational goals or
20 career goals to the maximum extent practicable;
21 and

22 “(2) issue guidance and provide technical as-
23 sistance to institutions to support improved partner-
24 ships and coordination among financial aid, career

1 services, and academic advisors to administer the
2 Federal work-study program.

3 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 is authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry out
5 subsections (a), (b), and (c).”.

6 **SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

7 The amendments made to the Higher Education Act
8 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) by sections 1 through
9 10 of this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2026, and
10 shall be effective for fiscal years beginning on and after
11 such date.

12 **SEC. 12. STUDY AND REPORT.**

13 (a) STUDY.—As soon as practicable after the date of
14 enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
15 United States shall conduct a study on best practices for
16 assisting students participating in the Federal work-study
17 program under part C of title IV of the Higher Education
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.) with—

- 19 (1) connecting to off-campus employers;
- 20 (2) procuring work-based learning opportunities
21 through the program;
- 22 (3) procuring employment that aligns with stu-
23 dents’ educational goals or career goals;
- 24 (4) locating employment through job location
25 and development programs;

1 (5) procuring employment in in-demand indus-
2 try sectors or occupations (as defined in section 3 of
3 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
4 U.S.C. 3102));

5 (6) balancing employment with academic pro-
6 grams to improve graduation and completion rates;
7 and

8 (7) with respect to students with exceptional
9 need (as defined in section 413C(c)(2) of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b–
11 2(c)(2)))—

12 (A) locating and coordinating work-study
13 employment during qualified periods of non-
14 enrollment;

15 (B) increasing participation in the work-
16 study program; and

17 (C) limiting the need for additional em-
18 ployment outside the work-study program.

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
21 United States shall submit to Congress, and make avail-
22 able to the public on the website of the Government Ac-
23 countability Office, a report summarizing the findings of
24 the study required under subsection (a).

○