

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6718

To amend the definition of professional degree in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2025

Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. BRESNAHAN, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the definition of professional degree in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

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 “Professional Student
5 Degree Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROFESSIONAL DEGREE DEFINED.**

7 Section 455(a)(4)(C) of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)(4)(C)) is amended—

9 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “, as defined
10 under section 668.2 of title 34, Code of Federal

1 Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment
2 of this paragraph),”; and

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

4 “(iii) PROFESSIONAL DEGREE.—In
5 this paragraph, the term ‘professional de-
6 gree’—

7 “(I) means a degree that sig-
8 nifies both completion of the academic
9 requirements for beginning practice in
10 a given profession (for which profes-
11 sional licensure is also commonly re-
12 quired), and a level of professional
13 skill beyond that normally required
14 for a bachelor’s degree, as determined
15 by the Secretary; and

16 “(II) includes each of the fol-
17 lowing degrees:

18 “(aa) Pharmacy
19 (Pharm.D.).

20 “(bb) Dentistry (D.D.S. or
21 D.M.D.).

22 “(cc) Veterinary Medicine
23 (D.V.M.).

24 “(dd) Chiropractic (D.C. or
25 D.C.M.).

1 “(ee) Law (L.L.B. or J.D.).

2 “(ff) Medicine (M.D.).

3 “(gg) Optometry (O.D.).

4 “(hh) Osteopathic Medicine/
5 Osteopathy (D.O.).

6 “(ii) Podiatric Medicine/Po-
7 diatry (D.P.M., D.P., or Pod.D.).

8 “(jj) Theology/Theological
9 Studies (M.Div., or M.H.L.).

10 “(kk) Clinical Psychology
11 (Psy.D. or Ph.D.).

12 “(ll) Ministry (D.Min.).

13 “(mm) Social Work (M.S.W.
14 or D.S.W.).

15 “(nn) Audiology (Au.D.).

16 “(oo) Physician Assistant/
17 Associate (M.P.A.S., M.S.P.A.S.,
18 M.M.S., or M.S.).

19 “(pp) Occupational Therapy
20 (M.O.T. or O.T.D.).

21 “(qq) Physical Therapy
22 (D.P.T.).

23 “(rr) Nursing (M.S.N.,
24 D.N.P., or Ph.D.).

1 “(ss) Public Health
2 (M.P.H.).

3 “(tt) Business Administra-
4 tion and Management, General
5 (M.B.A. or D.B.A.).

6 “(uu) Accounting (M.Acc. or
7 M.S.A.).

8 “(vv) Architecture
9 (M.Arch.).

10 “(ww) Education (M.A.,
11 M.S., M.A.T., M.Ed.).

12 “(xx) Special Education
13 (M.Ed. or M.S.Ed.).

14 “(yy) Any other degree that
15 meets the requirements of sub-
16 clause (I), as determined by the
17 Secretary.”.

○