

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9603

To ensure the Department of State will manage all international education and foreign language studies programs under Title VI of the Higher Education Act, as well as all Fulbright-Hays fellowships and scholarships, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure the Department of State will manage all international education and foreign language studies programs under Title VI of the Higher Education Act, as well as all Fulbright-Hays fellowships and scholarships, 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 “Less Bureaucracy,
5 Better International Education Oversight Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER AND REPEAL OF DEPARTMENT OF EDU-**
2 **CATION FUNCTIONS RELATED TO INTER-**
3 **NATIONAL AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDU-**
4 **CATION.**

5 (a) TRANSFER.—There are transferred to the Sec-
6 retary of State all the functions which the Secretary of
7 Education exercised before the effective date of this Act
8 (including all related functions of any officer or employee
9 of the Department of Education) with respect to each of
10 the following:

11 (1) International Education Programs under
12 title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
13 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.), as amended by this Act.

14 (2) The Fulbright-Hays program authorized
15 under section 102(b)(6) of the Mutual Educational
16 and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
17 2452(b)(6)).

18 (b) REPEAL OF INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL
19 PUBLIC POLICY.—Part C of title VI of the Higher Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) is repealed.

21 **SEC. 3. EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.**

22 Except as otherwise provided by law, the Secretary
23 of State may, for purposes of performing the function, ex-
24 ercise all authorities under any other provision of law that
25 were available with respect to the performance of that
26 function to the Secretary of Education immediately before

1 the effective date of the transfer of the function under this
2 Act.

3 **SEC. 4. TRANSFER AND ALLOCATIONS OF APPROPRIA-**
4 **TIONS AND PERSONNEL.**

5 Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the per-
6 sonnel employed in connection with, and the assets, liabil-
7 ities, contracts, property, records, and unexpended bal-
8 ances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and
9 other funds employed, used, held, arising from, available
10 to, or to be made available in connection with the func-
11 tions transferred under this Act, subject to section 1531
12 of title 31, United States Code, shall be transferred to the
13 Secretary of State. Unexpended funds transferred pursu-
14 ant to this section shall be used only for the purposes for
15 which the funds were originally authorized and appro-
16 priated.

17 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MAN-**
18 **AGEMENT AND BUDGET WITH RESPECT TO**
19 **FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED.**

20 (a) PERSONNEL DETERMINATIONS.—The Director of
21 the Office of Management and Budget shall ensure that
22 this Act does not result in a net increase in full-time equiv-
23 alent employees at the Federal agencies impacted by this
24 Act, based on the number of such employees at such agen-
25 cies on the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (b) FUNCTION DETERMINATIONS.—If necessary, the
2 Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall
3 make any determination of the functions that are trans-
4 ferred under this Act.

5 (c) INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.—The Director of the
6 Office of Management and Budget, at such time or times
7 as the Director shall provide, may make such determina-
8 tions as may be necessary with regard to the functions
9 transferred by this Act, and to make such additional inci-
10 dental dispositions of personnel, assets, liabilities, grants,
11 contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of
12 appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other
13 funds held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made
14 available in connection with such functions, as may be nec-
15 essary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The Director
16 shall provide for further measures and dispositions as may
17 be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

18 (d) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE.—On the effec-
19 tive date of this Act, the Director of the Office of Manage-
20 ment and Budget shall certify compliance with this Act,
21 including the requirement under subsection (a), to the
22 Committee on Education and Workforce of the House of
23 Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education,
24 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 6. DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT.**

2 Except as otherwise expressly prohibited by law or
3 otherwise provided in this Act, the Secretary of State may
4 delegate any of the functions so transferred to such offi-
5 cers and employees of the Department of State as the Sec-
6 retary may designate, and may authorize successive re-
7 delegations of such functions as may be necessary or ap-
8 propriate. No delegation of functions under this section
9 or under any other provision of this Act shall relieve the
10 Secretary of State of responsibility for the administration
11 of the function.

12 **SEC. 7. REFERENCES.**

13 With regard to functions transferred under section 2,
14 a reference in any other Federal law, Executive order,
15 rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any docu-
16 ment of or relating to—

17 (1) the Secretary of Education shall be deemed
18 to refer to the Secretary of State; and

19 (2) the Department of Education shall be
20 deemed to refer to the Department of State.

21 **SEC. 8. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**

22 (a) **LEGAL DOCUMENTS.**—All orders, determinations,
23 rules, regulations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agree-
24 ments, certificates, licenses, and privileges—

25 (1) that have been issued, made, granted, or al-
26 lowed to become effective by the President, any Fed-

1 eral agency or official thereof, or by a court of com-
2 petent jurisdiction, in the performance of any func-
3 tion that is transferred by this Act, and

4 (2) that are in effect on the effective date of
5 such transfer (or become effective after such date
6 pursuant to their terms as in effect on such effective
7 date),

8 shall continue in effect according to their terms until
9 modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in
10 accordance with law by the President, the Secretary of
11 State, any other authorized official, a court of competent
12 jurisdiction, or operation of law.

13 (b) PROCEEDINGS.—This Act shall not affect any
14 proceedings or any application for any benefits, service,
15 license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending
16 on the effective date of this Act before the Department
17 of Education (with respect to functions transferred by this
18 Act). Such proceedings and applications shall continue, or-
19 ders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be
20 taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant
21 to such orders, as if this Act had not been enacted, and
22 orders issued in any such proceeding shall continue in ef-
23 fect until modified, terminated, superseded, or revoked by
24 a duly authorized official, by a court of competent jurisdic-
25 tion, or by operation of law. Nothing in this subsection

1 shall be considered to prohibit the discontinuance or modi-
2 fication of any such proceeding under the same terms and
3 conditions and to the same extent that such proceeding
4 could have been discontinued or modified if this Act had
5 not been enacted.

6 (c) SUITS.—Except as provided in subsection (e)—

7 (1) this Act shall not affect suits commenced
8 before the effective date of this Act; and

9 (2) in all such suits, proceeding shall be had,
10 appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same
11 manner and with the same effect as if this Act had
12 not been enacted.

13 (d) NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.—No suit, action,
14 or other proceeding commenced by or against the Depart-
15 ment of Education (with respect to the functions trans-
16 ferred by this Act), or by or against any individual in the
17 official capacity of such individual as an officer or em-
18 ployee of the Department of Education (with regard to
19 functions transferred by this Act), shall abate by reason
20 of the enactment of this Act.

21 (e) CONTINUANCE OF SUITS.—If, before the date on
22 which a transfer of a function under this Act takes effect,
23 the Secretary of Education or any officer or employee of
24 the Department of Education in the official capacity as
25 such an officer or employee is party to a suit relating to

1 the function, then such suit shall be continued and the
2 Secretary of State, or other appropriate official of the De-
3 partment of State, shall be substituted or added as a
4 party.

5 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL RE-
6 VIEW.—Except as otherwise provided by this Act, any
7 statutory requirements relating to notice, hearings, action
8 upon the record, or administrative or judicial review that
9 apply to any function transferred by this Act shall apply
10 to the exercise of such function by the Secretary of State,
11 and other officers of the agency, to which such function
12 is transferred by this Act.

13 **SEC. 9. TRANSITION.**

14 Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the
15 Secretary of State is authorized to use, for such period
16 of time as may reasonably be needed to facilitate the or-
17 derly implementation of this Act—

18 (1) the services of officers, employees, and other
19 personnel of the Department of Education with re-
20 gard to functions transferred under this Act;

21 (2) assets of the Department of Education with
22 regard to such functions; and

23 (3) funds appropriated to such functions.

1 **SEC. 10. DEFINITION OF FUNCTION.**

2 For purposes of this Act, the term “function” in-
3 cludes any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsi-
4 bility, right, privilege, activity, or program; and

5 **SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in section 9,
7 this Act shall take effect 6 months after the date of enact-
8 ment of this Act.

9 (b) EARLY IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding
10 subsection (a), transfers of functions under section 2 or
11 any other provision of this Act (other than section 9) may
12 be carried out beginning on the date of enactment of this
13 Act but not later than the effective date of this Act.

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