

HR 3618

Higher Education Affordability Resource Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Nov 21, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. (Jan 30, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/3618>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ-13]

Party: Democratic • State: NJ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Clyburn, James E. [D-SC-6]	D · SC		Nov 21, 2003
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Nov 21, 2003
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Nov 21, 2003
Rep. Owens, Major R. [D-NY-11]	D · NY		Nov 21, 2003
Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Nov 21, 2003
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jan 27, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 30, 2004
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Nov 21, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Higher Education Affordability Resource Act - Amends the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to include coverage of other qualified higher education expenses under the HOPE scholarship tax credit.

Amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) to establish a program of student loan forgiveness for the following qualified public service employees: (1) highly qualified teachers in low-income communities; (2) highly qualified teachers of mathematics, science, and bilingual and special education; (3) nurses who serve low-income or needy communities in a clinical setting or as members of the nursing faculty at an accredited school of nursing; (4) child welfare workers who have completed a degree in social work or a related field with a focus on serving children and families in public or private child welfare services; and (5) firefighters, police officers, or emergency medical technicians (first responders) who serve low-income communities.

Directs the Secretary of Education to allow a student to receive two Pell grants during a single award year under certain conditions. (Currently only authorizes allowing this on a case-by-case basis under such conditions.)

Excludes from consideration as student assets, for purposes of HEA student financial needs analysis, qualified education benefits from prepayment or savings plans that meet certain IRC requirements, namely: (1) program described under specified IRC provisions; (2) State tuition programs; or (3) Coverdell education savings accounts.

Requires lenders to provide certain student loan borrowers with special transition assistance plans at specified interest rates.

Establishes a program to support academic transfer credits, to help students complete bachelor's degrees, through developing and implementing articulation and guaranteed transfer agreements between institutions of higher education (IHEs). Directs the Secretary to award grants to a partnership that includes two or more IHEs, at least one of which offers a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree, for: (1) policy development; (2) support services for participating students; (3) academic program enhancements at the community or technical college; and (4) identifying barriers that inhibit student transfers.

Revises provisions relating to financial aid administrator discretion. Prohibits an eligible institution from refusing to certify, or reduce the amount certified for, a loan under the part B Federal Family Education Loan Program in order to require the student to borrow a loan under the part D Federal Perkins Loans program if the student has remaining loan eligibility under part B.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 30, 2004:** Referred to the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Introduced in House
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- **Nov 21, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.
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