

## S 559

Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Feb 25, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Feb 25, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/559>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** NC • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors (28 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]	R · TN		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]	R · SC		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 2, 2015
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Mar 2, 2015
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Mar 2, 2015
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Mar 10, 2015
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 10, 2015
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Mar 10, 2015
Sen. Coats, Daniel [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA]	R · GA		Mar 17, 2015
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		May 18, 2015
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		Jun 1, 2015
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 28, 2015
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		Sep 8, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 25, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Education

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 970	Identical bill	<b>Apr 29, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

## **Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act**

Repeals certain Department of Education (ED) regulations that for purposes of determining whether a school is eligible to participate in programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA): (1) require institutions of higher education (IHEs) and postsecondary vocational institutions (except religious schools) to be legally authorized by the state in which they are situated, (2) delineate what such legal authorization requires of states and schools, (3) impose standards and disclosure requirements on programs that prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation, and (4) define "credit hour."

Prohibits ED from promulgating or enforcing any regulation or rule not in effect on the date of this Act's enactment regarding: (1) the state authorization for IHEs to operate within a state, (2) the definition or application of the term "gainful employment," or (3) a teacher preparation program accountability system. Ends that prohibition when a law is enacted that extends by at least two fiscal years the authorization or duration of one or more programs under the HEA.

Prohibits ED from promulgating or enforcing any regulation or rule that defines "credit hour" for any purpose under the HEA.

Prohibits ED from carrying out, developing, refining, promulgating, publishing, implementing, administering, or enforcing a postsecondary institution ratings system or any other performance system to rate IHEs.

Amends title IV (Student Assistance) of the HEA to authorize nonprofit IHEs to make payments to third-party entities for services that include student recruitment and are based on the amount of tuition that the IHE generates from student enrollment if the third-party entity: (1) is not affiliated with the IHE, (2) does not provide incentive payments to its employees for their success in enrolling students or securing financial aid for them, (3) is not paid by the IHE solely or separately for student recruitment services, and (4) will not make student recruitment information available to any other person or entity.

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## **Actions Timeline**

- **Feb 25, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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