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IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** May 27, 2021

**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. (May 27, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1945>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** DE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]	R · SC		May 27, 2021
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jun 17, 2021
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jun 17, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 17, 2021
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Jun 17, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jul 14, 2021
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 14, 2021
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Sep 28, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 2, 2022
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Apr 7, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 27, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Education

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 8803	Related bill	<b>Sep 13, 2022:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.
117 HR 6893	Related bill	<b>Mar 2, 2022:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.
117 HR 3294	Identical bill	<b>May 18, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

## Summary (as of May 27, 2021)

### Institutional Grants for New Infrastructure, Technology, and Education for HBCU Excellence Act or the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act

This bill establishes a grant program to support long-term improvements of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and graduate programs at HBCUs.

Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Education (ED) to award grants to HBCUs to improve campus facilities. A recipient must use grant funds for certain activities, such as constructing or renovating facilities, carrying out major repairs, and strengthening the safety and security of a campus. Any new construction, modernization, or renovation projects must meet building code and energy and water conservation requirements.

Further, HBCUs must seek to procure contracts from certain small businesses, including those owned and controlled by veterans and service-disabled veterans.

The bill prohibits the use of grant funds for specified activities, including for the payment of routine and predictable maintenance costs, minor repairs, and utility bills.

The Government Accountability Office must study the implementation of the grant program.

The bill also requires ED to repay the outstanding balance of principal, interest, fees, and costs and any related reimbursements for certain capital financing loans.

## Actions Timeline

- **May 27, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 27, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.