

HR 6424

HIGHER ED Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Jan 19, 2022

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law. (Nov 1, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/6424>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]

Party: Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 19, 2022
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4563	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law.
117 S 2976	Related bill	Oct 7, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
117 HR 4631	Related bill	Jul 22, 2021: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.
117 S 2442	Related bill	Jul 22, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (text: CR S5053)
117 S 603	Related bill	Mar 4, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Helping Individuals Get a Higher Education while Reducing Education Debt Act or the HIGHER ED Act

This bill makes various changes to student loan forgiveness and loan repayment programs.

First, the bill authorizes graduate and professional students to receive subsidized Stafford Loans. These students have been ineligible to receive subsidized Stafford Loans since July 1, 2012.

Next, the bill allows student loans to be discharged in bankruptcy proceedings.

The bill also establishes refinancing programs for student loans. It allows certain borrowers to refinance their federal student loans down to lower interest rates, and it creates the Federal Direct Refinanced Private Loan to allow certain borrowers to refinance their private student loans.

Additionally, the bill revises the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, such as by (1) allowing certain part-time faculty to participate in the PSLF program, (2) directing the Department of Education (ED) to annually cancel 10% of the amount a borrower owes after satisfying 12 qualifying monthly payments, (3) revising the process for certification of employment, and (4) requiring ED to establish a dispute resolution process.

Further, the bill revises federal student loan repayment programs, including by (1) replacing existing student loan repayment plans with one income-based repayment plan and one standard 10-year repayment plan, and (2) allowing existing borrowers to lower their payments by switching to these new plans. It also establishes a process for ED to enroll a delinquent borrower in a new repayment plan.

The bill also requires ED to provide certain notifications to borrowers.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law.
- **Jan 19, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 19, 2022:** Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.