HR 468

Mel’s Law

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Education
Introduced: Jan 15, 2025
Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.
Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce. (Jan 15, 2025)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/468

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Velázquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]
Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Sheila [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jan 15, 2025
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jan 15, 2025
Rep. Malliotakis, Nicole [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Jan 15, 2025
Rep. McIver, LaMonica [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jan 15, 2025
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Jan 15, 2025
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Jul 2, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 15, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jan 15, 2025)

Mel's Law

This bill requires institutions of higher education (IHEs) that participate in federal student aid programs to establish policies for awarding posthumous degrees.

Specifically, the IHE must certify that it has a policy to award a posthumous degree to a deceased student who (1) was enrolled in a degree program at the IHE; (2) died prior to completing such program; and (3) at the time of death, was in academic standing consistent with the requirements for graduation from such program (as determined by the IHE).

The bill prohibits accrediting agencies from taking into consideration the number of posthumous degrees awarded to deceased students by the IHE. (Under current law, an IHE must be accredited by an accrediting agency to participate in federal student aid programs.)

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 15, 2025:** Introduced in House
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