

# Union Calendar No. 58

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1949

**[Report No. 113-83]**

To direct the Secretary of Education to convene the Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data to conduct a study on improvements to postsecondary education transparency at the Federal level.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2013

Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. PETRI, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BUCSHON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

MAY 20, 2013

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 13, 2013]

# **A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Education to convene the Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data to conduct a study on improvements to postsecondary education transparency at the Federal level.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        *This Act may be cited as the “Improving Postsec-*  
5 *ondary Education Data for Students Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON IMPROVEMENTS TO POSTSECONDARY**  
7                    **EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY AT THE FED-**  
8                    **ERAL LEVEL.**

9        *(a) FORMATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMPROV-*  
10 *ING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION DATA.—*

11                    *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after*  
12 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of*  
13 *Education shall convene the Advisory Committee on*  
14 *Improving Postsecondary Education Data (in this*  
15 *Act referred to as the “Advisory Committee”), which*  
16 *shall be comprised of 15 members who represent eco-*  
17 *nomically, racially, and geographically diverse popu-*  
18 *lations appointed by the Secretary in consultation*  
19 *with the Commissioner for Education Statistics, in-*  
20 *cluding—*

21                    *(A) individuals representing different sec-*  
22 *tors of institutions of higher education, including*  
23 *individuals representing undergraduate and*  
24 *graduate education;*

1           (B) experts in the field of higher education  
2           policy;

3           (C) State officials;

4           (D) students and other stakeholders from the  
5           higher education community;

6           (E) representatives from the business com-  
7           munity;

8           (F) experts in choice in consumer markets;

9           (G) privacy experts;

10          (H) college and career counselors at sec-  
11          ondary schools;

12          (I) experts in data policy, collection, and  
13          use; and

14          (J) experts in labor markets.

15          (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall appoint  
16          the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

17          (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Advisory Committee shall  
18          conduct a study examining—

19               (1) the types of information, including informa-  
20               tion related to costs of postsecondary education,  
21               sources of financial assistance (including Federal stu-  
22               dent loans), student outcomes, and postgraduation  
23               earnings, the Federal Government should collect and  
24               report on institutions of higher education to assist

1 *students and families in their search for an institu-*  
2 *tion of higher education;*

3 *(2) how such information should be collected and*  
4 *reported, including how to disaggregate information*  
5 *on student outcomes by subgroups of students, such as*  
6 *full-time students, part-time students, nontraditional*  
7 *students, first generation college students, students*  
8 *who are veterans, and Federal Pell Grant recipients*  
9 *under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher*  
10 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a); and*

11 *(3) the ways in which the Federal Government*  
12 *may make such information more readily available*  
13 *to—*

14 *(A) students and their families in a format*  
15 *that is easily accessible and understandable, and*  
16 *will aid students and their families in making*  
17 *decisions; and*

18 *(B) States, local governments, secondary*  
19 *schools, individual or groups of institutions of*  
20 *higher education, and private-sector entities.*

21 *(c) SCOPE OF STUDY.—In conducting the study under*  
22 *this Act, the Advisory Committee shall, at a minimum, ex-*  
23 *amine—*

24 *(1) whether the current Federal transparency*  
25 *initiatives on postsecondary education—*

1           (A) are reporting consistent information  
2 about individual institutions of higher education  
3 across Federal agencies; and

4           (B) are similar to transparency initiatives  
5 on postsecondary education carried out by  
6 States, individual or groups of institutions of  
7 higher education, or private-sector entities;

8       (2) whether—

9           (A) the collection and reporting of  
10 postgraduation earnings by the Federal Govern-  
11 ment is feasible, and if feasible, the options for  
12 collecting and reporting such information;

13           (B) collecting and reporting such informa-  
14 tion would improve the use of Federal trans-  
15 parency initiatives and ease decisionmaking for  
16 students and their families; and

17           (C) collecting and reporting such informa-  
18 tion would have an impact on student privacy,  
19 and if so, how such impact may be minimized;

20       (3) whether any other information, including in-  
21 formation relating to student outcomes or identified  
22 under the review required under subsection (d),  
23 should be collected and reported by the Federal Gov-  
24 ernment to improve the utility of such initiatives for  
25 students and their families, and if so, how such infor-

1        *mation may be collected and reported, including*  
2        *whether the information should be disaggregated by*  
3        *subgroups of students;*

4            *(4) whether any information currently collected*  
5        *and reported by the Federal Government on institu-*  
6        *tions of higher education is not useful for students*  
7        *and their families and should not be so collected and*  
8        *reported;*

9            *(5) the manner in which the information from*  
10       *Federal transparency initiatives is made available to*  
11       *students and their families, and whether format*  
12       *changes may help the information become more easily*  
13       *understood and widely utilized by students and their*  
14       *families;*

15           *(6) any activities being carried out by the Fed-*  
16       *eral Government, States, individual or groups of in-*  
17       *stitutions of higher education, or private-sector enti-*  
18       *ties to help inform students and their families of the*  
19       *availability of Federal transparency initiatives;*

20           *(7) the cost to institutions of higher education of*  
21       *reporting to the Federal Government the information*  
22       *that is being collected and reported through Federal*  
23       *transparency initiatives, and how such cost may be*  
24       *minimized; and*

1           (8) *the relevant research described in subsection*  
2           *(d).*

3           (d) *REVIEW OF RELEVANT RESEARCH.—In con-*  
4 *ducting the study under this Act, the Advisory Committee*  
5 *shall review and consider—*

6           (1) *research and studies, if any, that have been*  
7 *conducted to determine questions most frequently*  
8 *asked by students and families to help inform their*  
9 *search for an institution of higher education;*

10          (2) *the types of information students seek before*  
11 *enrolling in an institution of higher education;*

12          (3) *whether the availability to students and their*  
13 *families of additional information on institutions of*  
14 *higher education will be beneficial or confusing;*

15          (4) *results, if any, that are available from con-*  
16 *sumer testing of Federal, State, institution of higher*  
17 *education, and private-sector transparency initiatives*  
18 *on postsecondary education that have been made pub-*  
19 *licly available on or after the date that is 10 years*  
20 *before the date of enactment of this Act; and*

21          (5) *any gaps in the research, studies, and results*  
22 *described in paragraphs (1) and (4) relating to the*  
23 *types of information students seek before enrolling in*  
24 *an institution of higher education.*

25          (e) *CONSULTATION.—*

1           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In conducting the study*  
2 *under this Act, the Advisory Committee shall—*

3                   (A) *hold public hearings to consult with*  
4 *parents and students; and*

5                   (B) *consult with a broad range of interested*  
6 *parties in higher education, including appro-*  
7 *priate researchers, representatives of secondary*  
8 *schools (including college and career counselors)*  
9 *and institutions of higher education from dif-*  
10 *ferent sectors of such institutions (including un-*  
11 *dergraduate and graduate education), State ad-*  
12 *ministrators, and Federal officials.*

13           (2) *CONSULTATION WITH THE AUTHORIZING*  
14 *COMMITTEES.*—*The Advisory Committee shall consult*  
15 *on a regular basis with the authorizing committees in*  
16 *conducting the study under this Act.*

17           (f) *REPORTS TO AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.*—

18                   (1) *INTERIM REPORT.*—*Not later than 180 days*  
19 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Advisory*  
20 *Committee shall prepare and submit to the author-*  
21 *izing committees and the Secretary an interim report*  
22 *describing the progress made in conducting the study*  
23 *under this Act and any preliminary findings on the*  
24 *topics identified under subsection (c).*

25                   (2) *FINAL REPORT.*—

1           (A) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year  
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Advi-  
3 sory Committee shall prepare and submit to the  
4 authorizing committees and the Secretary a final  
5 report on the study, including—

6           (i) recommendations for legislative,  
7 regulatory, and administrative actions  
8 based on findings related to the topics iden-  
9 tified under subsection (c); and

10           (ii) a summary of the research de-  
11 scribed in subsection (d).

12           (B) *CONSULTATION WITH NCES.*—The Ad-  
13 visory Committee shall consult with the Commis-  
14 sioner of Education Statistics prior to making  
15 recommendations under subparagraph (A)(i)  
16 with respect to improving the information being  
17 collected and reported by the Federal Govern-  
18 ment on institutions of higher education.

19           (g) *AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.*—The amount necessary  
20 to conduct the study under this Act shall be made available  
21 from amounts available to the Secretary for administrative  
22 expenses of the Department of Education.

23           (h) *DEFINITIONS.*—For purposes of this Act:

24           (1) *AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.*—The term “au-  
25 thorizing committees” has the meaning given the term

1       *in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965*  
2       *(20 U.S.C. 1003).*

3           (2) *FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.*—  
4       *The term “first generation college student” has the*  
5       *meaning given the term in section 402A(h) of the*  
6       *Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–*  
7       *11(h)).*

8           (3) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*—*The*  
9       *term “institution of higher education” has the mean-*  
10      *ing given the term in section 102 of the Higher Edu-*  
11      *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), except that such*  
12      *term does not include institutions described in sub-*  
13      *section (a)(1)(C) of such section 102.*

14          (4) *SECONDARY SCHOOL.*—*The term “secondary*  
15      *school” has the meaning given the term in section*  
16      *9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education*  
17      *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).*

18          (5) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*  
19      *the Secretary of Education.*

20          (6) *STATE.*—*The term “State” has the meaning*  
21      *given the term in section 103 of the Higher Education*  
22      *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).*

23          (7) *STUDENT.*—*The term “student” includes—*  
24              (A) *a prospective student;*

1           (B) a student enrolled in an institution of  
2 higher education;

3           (C) a nontraditional student (as defined in  
4 section 803(j)(2) of the Higher Education Act of  
5 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161c(j)(2))); and

6           (D) a veteran (as defined in section  
7 480(c)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(c)(1)))  
8 who is a student or prospective student.



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