

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4259

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize Presidential Honors Scholarships to be awarded to all secondary school students in the top 5 percent of their graduating class, to promote and recognize high academic achievement in secondary school, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 1996

Mr. McHALE (for himself, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. TEJEDA, Mr. ANDREWS, and Ms. HARMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize Presidential Honors Scholarships to be awarded to all secondary school students in the top 5 percent of their graduating class, to promote and recognize high academic achievement in secondary school, and for other purposes.

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 “Presidential Honors
5 Scholarship Act of 1996”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL HONORS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

2 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by inserting
4 after subpart 6 the following new subpart:

5 “SUBPART 7—PRESIDENTIAL HONORS SCHOLARSHIP
6 PROGRAM

7 **“SEC. 420A. PRESIDENTIAL HONORS SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**
8 **GRAM.**

9 “(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subpart to
10 establish a Presidential Honors Scholarship Program to
11 encourage high academic achievement in public and pri-
12 vate secondary schools and to recognize and reward the
13 achievement of their outstanding graduates.

14 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is au-
15 thorized, in accordance with this subpart, to carry out a
16 program of recognizing high academic achievement in pub-
17 lic and private secondary schools by awarding scholarships
18 to all students in the top 5 percent of their graduating
19 class, and thereby encouraging students to excel in their
20 secondary studies and pursue postsecondary education.

21 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated \$130,000,000 for fiscal
23 year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each
24 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years, to carry out the purposes
25 of this subpart. Funds shall remain available for obligation

1 until the end of the fourth fiscal year immediately succeed-
2 ing the fiscal year for which such funds were appropriated.

3 “(d) TERMS OF SCHOLARSHIPS.—

4 “(1) AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.—(A) The
5 amount of a scholarship awarded under this subpart
6 shall be \$1,000.

7 “(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), if
8 funds available in a fiscal year are insufficient to
9 fully fund all scholarships under this subpart, the
10 amount paid to each student shall be reduced pro-
11 portionately.

12 “(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of
13 this title, a scholarship awarded under this part—

14 “(i) shall not be counted in determining
15 the student’s need for grant, loan, or work as-
16 sistance under this title; and

17 “(ii) may, alone or in combination with
18 other grant, loan, or work assistance received
19 under this title, exceed the student’s cost of at-
20 tendance, as defined in section 472.

21 “(2) PERIOD OF SCHOLARSHIPS.—A student
22 who satisfies the requirements of subsection (f) may
23 receive a scholarship under this subpart for a period
24 of not more than 1 academic year of postsecondary

1 education or training on at least a half-time basis,
2 as determined by the institution.

3 “(3) SCHOLARSHIP PROCEEDS.—

4 “(A) USE AND AVAILABILITY.—Scholar-
5 ship proceeds shall be used for the scholarship
6 recipient’s first year of postsecondary education
7 or training, and shall remain available for such
8 use for not more than 3 academic years follow-
9 ing his or her graduation from secondary
10 school.

11 “(B) DISBURSAL.—Scholarship proceeds
12 shall be disbursed on behalf of students who re-
13 ceive scholarships under this subpart to the in-
14 stitutions of higher education at which the stu-
15 dents are enrolled. No scholarship proceeds
16 shall be disbursed on behalf of a student until
17 the student is enrolled at an institution of high-
18 er education on at least a half-time basis, as de-
19 termined by such institution.

20 “(4) USE AT ANY INSTITUTION PERMITTED.—

21 A scholarship awarded under this subpart may be
22 used to attend any institution of higher education,
23 as defined in section 481.

24 “(e) SELECTION OF SCHOLARS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Scholarships shall be
2 awarded to all students who rank in the top 5 per-
3 cent of the graduating class of each secondary school
4 that participates in the program under this subpart.
5 Ranking procedures shall be established by each
6 such school, but may not include any nonacademic
7 or extracurricular factors.

8 “(2) ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHOLAR-
9 SHIPS.—Each participating school shall announce
10 the availability of scholarships under this subpart,
11 and its selection procedures, to all students in the
12 school, and their parents, at the beginning of each
13 academic year.

14 “(3) RECORDS.—Each participating school
15 shall maintain records of its selection procedures,
16 the names of the students selected, and such other
17 related information as the Secretary may require.

18 “(f) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—In order to receive a
19 scholarship under this subpart, a student must—

20 “(1) rank in the top 5 percent of the graduat-
21 ing class at the secondary school that he or she at-
22 tends, as established by such school in accordance
23 with subsection (e); and

24 “(2) meet the requirements of section 484.

25 “(g) RECOGNITION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECEIPT.—

1 “(1) DESIGNATION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPI-
2 ENTS.—Students awarded scholarships under this
3 subpart shall be known as ‘Presidential Honors
4 Scholars’.

5 “(2) CERTIFICATES; CEREMONIES.—The Sec-
6 retary shall provide each student awarded a scholar-
7 ship under this subpart a certificate from the Presi-
8 dent that indicates that the recipient is a Presi-
9 dential Honors Scholar. The certificates shall be
10 provided through the secondary schools that selected
11 such students. Such schools may present these cer-
12 tificates in appropriate ceremonies.

13 “(h) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall, from time
14 to time, conduct an evaluation of the program authorized
15 by this subpart.

16 “(i) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—In order to carry
17 out the purposes of this subpart, the Secretary may, from
18 time to time, establish policies, procedures, and require-
19 ments, set deadlines, and require information.”.

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