

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5143

To encourage model programs to support veteran student success in postsecondary education by coordinating services to address the academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. CASTLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To encourage model programs to support veteran student success in postsecondary education by coordinating services to address the academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students.

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 “Securing Success for
5 Veterans on Campus Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR VETERAN STUDENT**
2 **SUCCESS.**

3 Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1133 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following new part:

6 **“PART F—CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR**
7 **VETERAN STUDENT SUCCESS**

8 **“SEC. 781. MODEL PROGRAMS FOR CENTERS OF EXCEL-**
9 **LENCE FOR VETERAN STUDENT SUCCESS.**

10 “(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to
11 encourage model programs to support veteran student suc-
12 cess in postsecondary education by coordinating services
13 to address the academic, financial, physical, and social
14 needs of veteran students.

15 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability
17 of appropriations under subsection (f), the Secretary
18 shall award grants to institutions of higher edu-
19 cation to develop model programs to support veteran
20 student success in postsecondary education.

21 “(2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under
22 this section shall be awarded for a period of 3 years.

23 “(c) USE OF GRANTS.—

24 “(1) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—An institution of
25 higher education receiving a grant under this section

1 shall use such grant to carry out a model program
2 that includes—

3 “(A) establishing of a Center of Excellence
4 for Veteran Student Success on the campus of
5 the institution to provide a single point of con-
6 tact to coordinate comprehensive support serv-
7 ices for veteran students;

8 “(B) establishing a veteran students sup-
9 port team, including representatives from the
10 offices of the institution responsible for admis-
11 sions, registration, financial aid, veterans bene-
12 fits, academic advising, student health, personal
13 or mental health counseling, career advising,
14 disabilities services, and any other office of the
15 institution that provides support to veteran stu-
16 dents on campus;

17 “(C) providing a full-time or part-time co-
18 ordinator whose primary responsibility is to co-
19 ordinate the model program carried out under
20 this section;

21 “(D) monitoring the rates of veteran stu-
22 dent enrollment, persistence, and completion;
23 and

1 “(E) developing a plan to sustain the Cen-
2 ter of Excellence for Veteran Student Success
3 after the grant period.

4 “(2) OTHER AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An in-
5 stitution of higher education receiving a grant under
6 this section may use such grant to carry out any of
7 the following activities with respect to veteran stu-
8 dents:

9 “(A) Outreach and recruitment of such
10 students.

11 “(B) Supportive instructional services for
12 such students, which may include—

13 “(i) personal, academic, and career
14 counseling, as an on-going part of the pro-
15 gram;

16 “(ii) tutoring and academic skill-build-
17 ing instruction assistance, as needed; and

18 “(iii) assistance with special admis-
19 sions and transfer of credit from previous
20 postsecondary education or experience.

21 “(C) Assistance in obtaining student finan-
22 cial aid.

23 “(D) Housing support for students living
24 in institutional facilities and commuting stu-
25 dents.

1 “(E) Cultural events, academic programs,
2 orientation programs, and other activities de-
3 signed to ease the transition to campus life for
4 such students.

5 “(F) Support for veteran student organiza-
6 tions and veteran student support groups on
7 campus.

8 “(G) Coordination of academic advising
9 and admissions counseling with military bases
10 and national guard units in the area.

11 “(H) Other support services the institution
12 determines to be necessary to ensure the suc-
13 cess of such students in achieving their edu-
14 cational and career goals.

15 “(d) APPLICATION; SELECTION.—

16 “(1) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a
17 grant under this section, an institution of higher
18 education shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
19 tion at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
20 by such information as the Secretary may require.

21 “(2) SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS.—In award-
22 ing grants under this section, the Secretary shall
23 consider—

24 “(A) the number of veteran students en-
25 rolled at an institution of higher education; and

1 “(B) the need for model programs to ad-
2 dress the needs of veteran students at a wide
3 range of institutions of higher education, in-
4 cluding the need to provide—

5 “(i) an equitable distribution of such
6 grants to institutions of higher education
7 of various types and sizes;

8 “(ii) an equitable geographic distribu-
9 tion of such grants; and

10 “(iii) an equitable distribution of such
11 grants among rural and urban areas.

12 “(e) EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN.—
13 The Secretary shall develop an evaluation and account-
14 ability plan for model programs funded under this section
15 to objectively measure the impact of such programs, in-
16 cluding a measure of whether postsecondary education en-
17 rollment, persistence, and completion for veterans in-
18 creases as a result of such programs.

19 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part
21 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 and
22 each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

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