

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4648

To improve estimates of off-campus room and board for students at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2019

Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To improve estimates of off-campus room and board for students at institutions of higher education, 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 “Transparency in Off-
5 Campus Housing Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INSTITUTIONAL CALCULATIONS FOR OFF-CAMPUS**
7 **ROOM AND BOARD.**

8 (a) **AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS.**—Sec-
9 tion 478(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
10 U.S.C. 1087rr(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) by striking “or” at the end of subpara-
3 graph (A);

4 (B) by striking the period at the end of
5 subparagraph (B) and inserting “; or”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(C) to prescribe—

8 “(i) at least one methodology that in-
9 stitutions of higher education (other than
10 institutions that receive a waiver under
11 clause (ii)) shall use in determining the al-
12 lowance for room and board costs incurred
13 by students described in subparagraph (A)
14 of section 472(3) and by students de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (D) of such sec-
16 tion, that shall—

17 “(I) ensure that each such allow-
18 ance determination is sufficient to
19 cover reasonable room and board costs
20 incurred by the students for whom
21 such allowance is being determined;
22 and

23 “(II) include the sources of infor-
24 mation that institutions shall use in

1 making each such allowance deter-
2 mination; and

3 “(ii) a process for granting institu-
4 tions of higher education a waiver from the
5 requirements of clause (i), including—

6 “(I) a requirement that each in-
7 stitution of higher education seeking
8 such a waiver submit to the Sec-
9 retary—

10 “(aa) a description of the
11 methodology that the institution
12 will use for each allowance deter-
13 mination described in clause (i);

14 “(bb) an assurance that
15 each such allowance determina-
16 tion meets the requirements of
17 clause (i)(I); and

18 “(cc) a demonstration that
19 the institution will use reliable
20 sources of information for each
21 such allowance determination;
22 and

23 “(II) a requirement that each in-
24 stitution of higher education that re-
25 ceives such a waiver publicly disclose

1 on the website of the institution the
2 methodology and sources of informa-
3 tion used by the institution for each
4 allowance determination described in
5 clause (i).”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(3) Any regulation proposed by the Secretary
8 under paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection shall not
9 be subject to the requirements of paragraph (2).”.

10 (b) REQUIREMENT TO PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS.—

11 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of
12 this Act, the Secretary of Education shall issue regulations
13 that meet the requirements of subparagraph (C) of section
14 478(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
15 1087rr(a)(1)), as added by subsection (a).

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