

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 787

To amend the SOAR Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2019

Mr. WALKER (for himself, Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. HUNTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To amend the SOAR Act.

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 “SOAR Reauthorization
5 Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE SOAR ACT.**

7 (a) AMENDMENTS TO SOAR.—The Scholarships for
8 Opportunity and Results Act (division C of Public Law
9 112–10) is amended—

1 (1) in section 3007 (sec. 38–1853.07 D.C. Offi-
2 cial Code)—

3 (A) by striking subsection (c) and redesign-
4 nating subsection (d) as subsection (c);

5 (B) in subsection (a)(5)(A)(i)—

6 (i) by striking subclause (I) and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(I) is fully accredited by—

9 “(aa) an accrediting body
10 with jurisdiction in the District
11 of Columbia and that is recog-
12 nized by the Student and Visitor
13 Exchange English Language Pro-
14 gram administered by the U.S.
15 Immigration and Customs En-
16 forcement; or

17 “(bb) any international ac-
18 crediting body that the Secretary
19 may designate, after consultation
20 with the grantee or grantees
21 under section 3004(a); or”; and

22 (ii) in subclause (II), by striking “the
23 date of enactment of the Consolidated Ap-
24 propriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–
25 113),” and inserting “the date of enact-

1 ment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act of
2 2019,”;

3 (C) in subsection (b)—

4 (i) in the subsection heading, by strik-
5 ing “AND PARENTAL ASSISTANCE” and in-
6 serting “, PARENTAL ASSISTANCE, AND
7 STUDENT ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE”;

8 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i),
9 by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting
10 “\$2,200,000”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(3) The expenses of providing tutoring service
14 to participating eligible students that need additional
15 academic assistance. If there are insufficient funds
16 to provide tutoring services to all such students in
17 a year, the eligible entity shall give priority in such
18 year to students who previously attended an elemen-
19 tary school or secondary school identified as one of
20 the lowest-performing schools under the District of
21 Columbia’s accountability system.”; and

22 (D) in subsection (c), as redesignated by
23 subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
2 “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting
3 “subsection (b)”; and

4 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking
5 “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting
6 “subsection (b)”; and

7 (2) in section 3008(h) (sec. 38–1853.08 D.C.
8 Official Code)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section
10 3009(a)(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “section
11 3009(a)”; and

12 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
13 ing the following:

14 “(2) The Institute of Education Sciences may
15 administer assessments to students participating in
16 the evaluation under section 3009(a) for the purpose
17 of conducting the evaluation under such section.”;
18 and

19 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “the na-
20 tionally norm-referenced standardized test de-
21 scribed in paragraph (2)” and inserting “a na-
22 tionally norm-referenced standardized test”;

23 (3) in section 3009(a) (sec. 38–1853.09 D.C.
24 Official Code)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “an-
2 nually”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
5 clause (i) and inserting the following:

6 “(i) is rigorous; and”; and

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
8 “impact of the program” and all that fol-
9 lows through the end of the subparagraph
10 and inserting “impact of the program on
11 academic achievement and educational at-
12 tainment.”;

13 (C) in paragraph (3)—

14 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
15 ing “ON EDUCATION” and inserting “OF
16 EDUCATION”;

17 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (I) by inserting “the academic
19 progress of” after “assess”; and

20 (II) by striking “in each of
21 grades 3” and all that follows through
22 the end of the subparagraph and in-
23 serting “; and”;

24 (iii) by striking subparagraph (B);

25 and

1 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
2 (C) as subparagraph (B); and
3 (D) in paragraph (4)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
5 “A comparison of the academic achieve-
6 ment of participating eligible students who
7 use an opportunity scholarship on the
8 measurements described in paragraph
9 (3)(B) to the academic achievement” and
10 inserting “The academic progress of par-
11 ticipating eligible students who use an op-
12 portunity scholarship compared to the aca-
13 demic progress”;

14 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
15 “increasing the satisfaction of such parents
16 and students with their choice” and insert-
17 ing “those parents’ and students’ satisfac-
18 tion with the program”; and

19 (iii) by striking subparagraph (D)
20 through (F) and inserting the following:

21 “(D) The high school graduation rates,
22 college enrollment rates, college persistence
23 rates, and college graduation rates of partici-
24 pating eligible students who use an opportunity
25 scholarship compared with the rates of public

1 school students described in subparagraph (A),
2 to the extent practicable.

3 “(E) The college enrollment rates, college
4 persistence rates, and college graduation rates
5 of students who participated in the program as
6 the result of winning the Opportunity Scholar-
7 ship Program lottery compared to the enroll-
8 ment, persistence, and graduation rates for stu-
9 dents who entered but did not win such lottery
10 and who, as a result, served as the control
11 group for previous evaluations of the program
12 under this division. Nothing in this subpara-
13 graph may be construed to waive section
14 3004(a)(3)(A)(iii) with respect to any such stu-
15 dent.

16 “(F) The safety of the schools attended by
17 participating eligible students who use an op-
18 portunity scholarship compared with the schools
19 in the District of Columbia attended by public
20 school students described in subparagraph (A),
21 to the extent practicable.”; and

22 (4) in section 3014(a) (sec. 38–1853.14, D.C.
23 Official Code), by striking “fiscal year 2019” and
24 inserting “fiscal year 2024”.

1 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
2 subsection (a) shall take effect on September 30, 2019.

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