

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 114

To amend the SOAR Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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 Permanent Au-
5 thorization Act”.

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

7 The Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act
8 (division C of Public Law 112–10) is amended—

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

(A) in subsection (a)(5)(A)(i), by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

“(I) is fully accredited by an accrediting body with jurisdiction in the District of Columbia or that is recognized by the Student and Visitor Exchange English Language Program administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; or”;

(B) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c);

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND PARENTAL ASSISTANCE” and inserting “, PARENTAL ASSISTANCE, AND STUDENT ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE”;

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$2,200,000”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) The expenses of providing tutoring service to participating eligible students that need additional academic assistance. If there are insufficient funds to provide tutoring services to all such students in

1 a year, the eligible entity shall give priority in such
 2 year to students who previously attended an elemen-
 3 tary school or secondary school identified as one of
 4 the lowest-performing schools under the District of
 5 Columbia’s accountability system.”; and

6 (D) in subsection (c), as redesignated by
 7 subparagraph (B)—

8 (i) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
 9 “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting
 10 “subsection (b)”; and

11 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking
 12 “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting
 13 “subsection (b)”; and

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

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section
 17 3009(a)(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “section
 18 3009(a)”; and

19 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
 20 ing the following:

21 “(2) ADMINISTRATION OF TESTS.—The Insti-
 22 tute of Education Sciences may administer assess-
 23 ments to students participating in the evaluation
 24 under section 3009(a) for the purpose of conducting
 25 the evaluation under such section.”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “the na-
 2 tionally norm-referenced standardized test de-
 3 scribed in paragraph (2)” and inserting “a na-
 4 tionally norm-referenced standardized test”;
 5 (3) in section 3009(a) (sec. 38–1853.09(a) D.C.
 6 Official Code)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “an-
 8 nually” and inserting “regularly”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 11 clause (i) and inserting the following:

12 “(i) is rigorous; and”; and

13 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 14 “impact of the program” and all that fol-
 15 lows through the end of the subparagraph
 16 and inserting “impact of the program on
 17 academic progress and educational attain-
 18 ment.”;

19 (C) in paragraph (3)—

20 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
 21 ing “ON EDUCATION” and inserting “OF
 22 EDUCATION”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

24 (I) by inserting “the academic
 25 progress of” after “assess”; and

1 (II) by striking “in each of
 2 grades 3” and all that follows through
 3 the end of the subparagraph and in-
 4 serting “; and”;

5 (iii) by striking subparagraph (B);

6 and

7 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
 8 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

9 (D) in paragraph (4)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (I) by striking “A comparison of
 12 the academic achievement of partici-
 13 pating eligible students who use an
 14 opportunity scholarship on the meas-
 15 urements described in paragraph
 16 (3)(B) to the academic achievement”
 17 and inserting “The academic progress
 18 of participating eligible students who
 19 use an opportunity scholarship com-
 20 pared to the academic progress”; and

21 (II) by inserting “, which may in-
 22 clude students” after “students with
 23 similar backgrounds”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 25 “increasing the satisfaction of such parents

1 and students with their choice” and insert-
2 ing “those parents’ and students’ satisfac-
3 tion with the program”;

4 (iii) by striking subparagraph (D)
5 through (F) and inserting the following:

6 “(D) The high school graduation rates,
7 college enrollment rates, college persistence
8 rates, and college graduation rates of partici-
9 pating eligible students who use an opportunity
10 scholarship compared with the rates of public
11 school students described in subparagraph (A),
12 to the extent practicable.

13 “(E) The college enrollment rates, college
14 persistence rates, and college graduation rates
15 of students who participated in the program as
16 the result of winning the Opportunity Scholar-
17 ship Program lottery compared to the enroll-
18 ment, persistence, and graduation rates for stu-
19 dents who entered but did not win such lottery
20 and who, as a result, served as the control
21 group for previous evaluations of the program
22 under this division. Nothing in this subpara-
23 graph may be construed to waive section
24 3004(a)(3)(A)(iii) with respect to any such stu-
25 dent.

1 “(F) The safety of the schools attended by
 2 participating eligible students who use an op-
 3 portunity scholarship compared with the schools
 4 attended by public school students described in
 5 subparagraph (A), to the extent practicable.”;
 6 and

7 (iv) in subparagraph (G), by striking
 8 “achievement” and inserting “progress”;
 9 and

10 (4) in section 3014 (sec. 38–1853.14, D.C. Of-
 11 ficial Code)—

12 (A) in subsection (a), in the matter pre-
 13 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “\$60,000,000
 14 for fiscal year 2012 and for each fiscal year
 15 through fiscal year 2023” and inserting
 16 “\$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and for each
 17 succeeding fiscal year”; and

18 (B) in subsection (b), by striking
 19 “\$60,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”.

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