

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5489

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to create the Pell Plus program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to create
the Pell Plus program.

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 “Pell Plus Act of 2023”.

5 **SEC. 2. PELL PLUS PROGRAM.**

6 Section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
7 U.S.C. 1070a), as amended by section 703 of the FAFSA
8 Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law
9 116–260), is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(k) PELL PLUS PROGRAM.—

1 “(1) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with award
3 year 2025–2026, for each award year for which
4 a student receives a Federal Pell Grant and
5 meets the requirements of paragraph (2), the
6 Secretary shall award such student an addi-
7 tional Federal Pell Grant, referred to as a ‘Fed-
8 eral Pell Plus Grant’, in an amount equal to the
9 amount of the student’s Federal Pell Grant
10 award determined under this section for such
11 award year, except as provided in subparagraph
12 (B).

13 “(B) COST OF ATTENDANCE REDUC-
14 TIONS.—In any case in which a student is
15 awarded a Federal Pell Grant under this sec-
16 tion and a Federal Pell Plus grant under this
17 subsection, the combined total of such Federal
18 Pell Grant, such Federal Pell Plus Grant, and
19 the amount provided by a Pell Plus institution
20 in accordance with paragraph (4)(B)(i)(II)(aa)
21 shall not exceed the cost of attendance (as de-
22 fined in section 472) at the institution at which
23 that student is in attendance. In the case that
24 such combined total would exceed such cost of
25 attendance, the Secretary shall reduce the

1 amount of the Federal Pell Plus grant awarded
2 to the student, taking into consideration the
3 corresponding reduction in the amount provided
4 by a Pell Plus institution in accordance with
5 paragraph (4)(B)(i)(II)(aa) as a result of the
6 reduced Federal Pell Plus grant amount, until
7 the combined total of such reduced Federal Pell
8 Plus Grant, such reduced amount provided by
9 a Pell Plus institution in accordance with para-
10 graph (4)(B)(i)(II)(aa), and the Federal Pell
11 Grant award of the student does not exceed
12 such cost of attendance.

13 “(2) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—A student meets the
14 requirements of this paragraph, if the student—

15 “(A) during the award year during which the
16 student receives a Federal Pell Plus Grant under
17 paragraph (1)—

18 “(i) is enrolled—

19 “(I) in the student’s first under-
20 graduate baccalaureate course of study;
21 and

22 “(II) at a Pell Plus institution; and

23 “(ii) is maintaining progress toward com-
24 pletion of such course of study in not more than
25 a total of 4 academic years; and

1 “(B) has completed at least 4 semesters, or the
2 equivalent, of such course of study.

3 “(3) DURATION LIMITS.—The period during which
4 a student receives a Federal Pell Plus Grant under para-
5 graph (1) shall be included in calculating the duration lim-
6 its with respect to such student under subsection (d)(5),
7 and to the extent that such period was a fraction of a
8 semester or the equivalent, only that same fraction of such
9 semester or equivalent shall count towards such duration
10 limits.

11 “(4) PELL PLUS INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY.—For
12 purposes of this subsection, a Pell Plus institution is an
13 eligible institution for purposes of this subpart that—

14 “(A) notifies the Secretary that the institution
15 desires to participate in the program under this sub-
16 section;

17 “(B) agrees to provide, to each student receiv-
18 ing a Federal Pell Plus Grant under paragraph
19 (1)—

20 “(i) for each award year for which the stu-
21 dent receives such Federal Pell Plus Grant—

22 “(I) a notification that shall include—

23 “(aa) whether the student is
24 maintaining the progress toward com-

1 pletion required under paragraph
2 (2)(A)(ii);

3 “(bb) in a case in which the stu-
4 dent is not maintaining such progress
5 toward completion, a list of available
6 student support services and addi-
7 tional resources to assist the student
8 in completing the course of study for
9 which the student is receiving the
10 Federal Pell Plus Grant in not more
11 than a total of 4 academic years; and

12 “(cc) the amount of funds the
13 student is receiving under the Federal
14 Pell Plus Grant and from the institu-
15 tion under subclause (II)(aa); and

16 “(II) an amount of funds—

17 “(aa) equal to the amount of
18 such Federal Pell Plus Grant received
19 by the student for such award year;
20 and

21 “(bb) using the non-Federal re-
22 sources of the institution, such as—

23 “(AA) an institutional grant
24 or scholarship;

1 “(BB) through a tuition or
2 fee waiver; or

3 “(CC) foundation or other
4 charitable organization funds;
5 and

6 “(ii) in the case of a student who, as of the
7 beginning of the third academic year of the
8 course of study for which the student is receiv-
9 ing the Federal Pell Plus Grant, is not main-
10 taining the progress toward completion required
11 under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), a warning during
12 such third academic year that the student will
13 not be eligible for a Federal Pell Plus Grant
14 under paragraph (1) for the fourth academic
15 year of such course of study unless the student
16 demonstrates, by not later than the end of such
17 third academic year, progress toward com-
18 pleting such course of study by the end of the
19 fourth academic year of such course of study;
20 and

21 “(C) in the case of an institution that provides
22 institutional grant or scholarship aid to a student
23 for the academic year preceding the academic year
24 for which the student receives a Federal Pell Plus
25 Grant under paragraph (1), agrees to provide the

1 amount of such institutional grant or scholarship aid
 2 for any academic year for which the student receives
 3 such Federal Pell Plus Grant that the institution
 4 would have provided to such student in the absence
 5 of such Federal Pell Plus Grant, except that such
 6 amount of aid may be reduced to ensure that the
 7 combined amount of such aid, and the Federal Pell
 8 Plus Grant, the amount under subparagraph
 9 (B)(i)(II)(aa), and the Federal Pell Grant award
 10 provided to the student does not exceed the cost of
 11 attendance (as defined in section 472) at such insti-
 12 tution for such academic year; and

13 “(D) the Secretary determines meets the re-
 14 quirements of this paragraph.”.

15 **SEC. 3. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES.**

16 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 485(a)(1) of the Higher
 17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(a)(1)) is amend-
 18 ed—

19 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
 20 graph (U); and

21 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
 22 paragraph (V) and inserting “; and”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(W) in the case of an institution that is
 25 a Pell Plus institution under section 401(k),

1 any applicable information with respect to the
2 institution’s participation in the Federal Pell
3 Plus Grant program under such subsection.”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 subsection (a) shall take effect with respect to award year
6 2025–2026 and each succeeding award year.

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