

Overview of the AIM Higher Act

House Dems proposed a multi-pronged reauthorization bill, countering much of the PROSPER Act



Improving access to a quality degree

Provisions

- Funds state efforts to increase student access to early credit pathways
- Increases funding to federal outreach and student services programs TRIO and GREAR UP
- Funds local efforts to help foster and homeless youth attend college
- Allows recipients of DACA access to federal aid
- Makes Pell Grants available to incarcerated individuals
- Provides tuition assistance to Native American students and students in US territories
- Simplifies the FAFSA form



Making college more affordable

Provisions

- Increases the maximum Pell Grant award amount by \$500 each award year and “permanently indexes the Pell award to inflation”
- Preserves the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, from which teachers can receive up to \$4000
- Eliminates origination fees for federal loans: allows students to pay up to 4.264 percent of their loan amount in origination fees each time they borrow
- Nearly doubles the federal allocation for the federal work study program



Increasing college completion

Provisions

- Provides grant aid to low-income students who transfer from a community college to an MSI*
- Increases funding to Child Care Access means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)
- Authorizes grants to institutions that serve a significant number of veterans
- Amends the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to allow for the reverse transfer of student data
- Increases funding to under-sourced community colleges, HBCUs* and MSIs

*MSI: Minority-Serving Institution

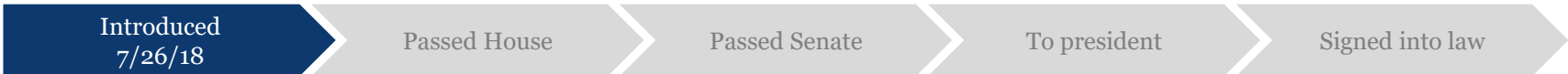
*HBCU: Historically Black College/University



HEA reauthorization: AIM Higher Act

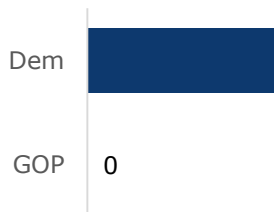
H.R. 6543

Bill at a glance



Robert Scott
(D-VA-3)
Bill sponsor

Co-sponsors: 63



Bill overview

- The Aim Higher Act is the House Democrats' proposed reauthorization bill for the Higher Education Act, which authorizes most federal higher education student aid
- The bill was drafted as the Democratic alternative to the controversial GOP proposal for HEA reauthorization, a bill called the PROSPER Act
- The bill would provide states with grant aid to leverage reforms
- It rewards states that make tuition at state college colleges and universities more affordable and make an associate's degree at the state's public two-year colleges free for every student
- It also authorizes additional quality checks for federally-aided programs using a Competency Based Education (CBE) model
- The bill requires the Secretary to appoint a Special Assistant for Equity and Inclusion

Status in Congress

- **House:** Introduced and referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Points of controversy

- The Congressional Budget Office has yet to assess how much the Aim Higher Act plan would cost the government