

Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act (H.R. 6585)

Summary of the Suspension

- The bill authorizes the Department of Education (ED) to award Workforce Pell Grants beginning with the 2025-2026 award year on July 1, 2025.
- An eligible student for a Workforce Pell Grant must be enrolled in an eligible workforce program, may not have attained a postgraduate degree, and must otherwise meet the eligibility criteria to receive a Pell Grant.
- An eligible program must be at least 150 clock hours of instruction (or an equivalent number of credit hours), but less than 600 clock hours of instruction, offered during a minimum of eight weeks but less than 15 weeks.
- To be a Workforce Pell Grant program:
 - A state workforce board authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) must first determine if a program provides education aligned with high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations, among other industry-relevant characteristics.
 - A recognized accreditor must then determine if the program leads to a recognized postsecondary credential that is stackable towards one or more certificate or degree programs, if the program is transparent about the competencies achieved to earn the credential, and if the program has been offering instruction for not less than one year before an accreditor determines eligibility.
 - ED will then determine if a program meets a 70 percent completion rate, 70 percent job placement rate, and the price of the program does not exceed the value-added earnings of graduates one year after completion, and for at least two of the three most recent award years, the median earnings of Workforce Pell Grant recipients must not be less than the median earnings of a high school graduate in the state in which the program is located.
- If a program meets the requirements of this section, ED must grant eligibility no more than 120 days after ED receives the program's application.
- ED must use current administrative data and data agreements to implement the data collection requirements and all necessary calculations required by the bill.
- ED is required to annually collect, verify, and make publicly available on the College Scorecard data related to each Workforce Pell Grant program, except when disclosure of any of the data is prohibited under state or federal privacy laws or regulations.
- The bill provides an efficient process for current and prospective accreditors seeking to evaluate Workforce Pell Grant programs to receive initial recognition to oversee these programs.
- To fully offset the bill with mandatory savings, beginning in award year 2025-2026, those universities subject to the endowment excise tax will be required, with certain exceptions, to annually reimburse ED for the amounts of principal and interest that is not repaid on federal student loans. The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on the impact of the reimbursement requirements.