

HELP Committee Provisions of the Senate's One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Section by Section

Subtitle A—Student Eligibility

Sec. 80001. Student Eligibility

- **Student eligibility:** End aid eligibility for certain non-U.S. nationals

Sec. 80002. Exemption of Farm and Small Business Assets

- **Farm fix:** Exclude farm and small business assets from aid eligibility formula

Subtitle B—Loan Limits

Sec. 81001. Establishment of Loan Limits

- **Cap graduate lending:** Eliminate Grad PLUS loans and cap unsubsidized graduate (e.g., masters) borrowing at \$20,500 per year (\$100,000 lifetime) and professional (e.g., law, medicine) borrowing at \$50,000 per year (\$200,000 lifetime); graduate limits are in addition to undergraduate limits
- **Cap parent borrowing:** Cap loans to parents of undergraduates (parent PLUS) at \$20,000 per student per year (\$65,000 per student lifetime; parents can borrow for multiple students)
- **Prorate loans:** Set lower limits for part-time students (e.g., half-time student eligible for half the maximum loan); this aligns with how the Pell Grant is distributed
- **Institutional discretion:** Allow institutions to set lower loan limits as long as they do so consistently within programs

Subtitle C—Loan Repayment

Sec. 82001. Loan Repayment

- **Simplify repayment:** New loans (starting 7/1/2026) can be repaid using only two plans: a new standard plan and a new income-driven repayment (IDR) plan; existing plans (SAVE, PAYE, ICR, graduated, extended, alternative) are eliminated
 - *New standard plan:* borrowers make fixed payments for 10-25 years based on amount borrowed
 - *Repayment Assistance Plan:* New income-driven plan where payments are 1-10% of income depending on income level, with a minimum monthly payment of \$10; payments are reduced by \$50 per dependent; borrowers who make on-time payments always see their balance go down, as unpaid interest is waived and there is a principal match of up to \$50; any remaining balance is forgiven after 30 years
- **Transition existing borrowers to lawful income-based plan:** Existing borrowers (with loans taken before 7/1/2026) will have access to the income-based repayment (IBR) plan created by Congress; under this plan, pre-2014 borrowers pay 15% of discretionary income (income above 150% of the Federal Poverty Line) with forgiveness after 25 years; post-2014 borrowers pay 10% of discretionary income with forgiveness after 20 years; existing borrowers can switch to the Repayment Assistance Plan once it is available

Sec. 82002. Deferment and Forbearance

- **Streamline deferments:** Eliminate economic hardship and unemployment deferments to encourage borrowers to use options (such as income-driven repayment) that are better for them
- **Limit forbearances:** Limit availability of discretionary forbearances to no more than 9 months during any 24-month period

Sec. 82003. Loan Rehabilitation

- **Loan rehabilitation:** Allow borrowers to rehabilitate defaulted loans twice instead of once; set required monthly payment for rehabilitation at \$10 instead of \$5

Sec. 82004. Public Service Loan Forgiveness

- **Repayment Assistance Plan:** Allow payments made under the Repayment Assistance Plan to count toward PSLF eligibility (included in cost of new IDR plan)
- **Qualifying jobs:** Payments made by doctors and dentists during residency no longer count toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Sec. 82005. Student Loan Servicing

- **Additional funds:** Provide funds to the Department of Education for costs associated with returning borrowers back into repayment on their loans and to help with the costs of building the new repayment plans

Subtitle D—Pell Grants

Sec. 83001. Eligibility

- **Foreign income:** Require foreign income to be included in the income calculation for the purposes of calculating Pell Grant eligibility
- **Exclusion of higher-income families:** Exclude families with a Student Aid Index more than twice the maximum Pell grant from receiving Pell

Sec. 83002. Workforce Pell

- **Workforce Pell Grants:** Expand eligibility for Pell Grants to students enrolled in short-term (150-599 clock hours), high-quality, workforce aligned programs; include guardrails for student outcomes including earnings, completion rates, and job placement rates; allow students enrolled in programs operating outside of the accreditation system to be eligible for Workforce Pell Grants

Sec. 83003. Pell Shortfall

- **Reduce shortfall:** Provide additional funding for the Pell Grant program in FY26 to address the funding shortfall

Sec. 83004. Limits for Students with Full Scholarships

- **Limit Pell for full-ride Students:** Exclude students receiving full cost-of-attendance scholarships from Pell eligibility

Subtitle E—Accountability

Sec. 84001. Ineligibility Based on Low Earning Outcomes

- **Establish “do no harm” standard:** End federal loan eligibility for programs that leave students worse off than if they had never gone
 - Prohibit new federal student loans from paying for undergraduate degree programs where the majority of former students earn less than the median high school graduate in the same state
 - Prohibit new federal student loans from paying for graduate programs where the majority of former students earn less than the median bachelor’s degree recipient in the same field in the same state
 - Programs lose eligibility if they fail to meet the standard for two years in a three-year period.

Subtitle F—Regulatory Relief

Sec. 85001. Borrower Defense to Repayment

- **Rule repeal:** Repeal Biden expansion of Borrower Defense to Repayment regulation, restoring regulation from first Trump Administration

Sec. 85002. Closed School Discharge

- **Rule repeal:** Repeal Biden expansion of Closed School Discharge regulation, restoring regulation from first Trump Administration

Subtitle G—Limitation on Authority

Sec. 86001. Limit Authority to Issue Regulations

- **Limit authority:** Restrict the Secretary of Education’s ability to issue regulations and executive actions that increase costs, or subsidies, in the Federal Student Aid programs

Subtitle H—Funding Cost Sharing Reduction Payments

Sec. 87001. Funding Cost Sharing Reduction Payments

- **Provide funding:** Appropriate funding for Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR) payments under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) beginning in plan year 2026

Subtitle I—Garden of Heroes

Sec. 88001. Garden of Heroes

- **Provide funding:** Provide \$40 million to the National Endowment for the Humanities to establish the “National Garden of American Heroes”