

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 163

To require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. CASSIDY to the Committee
Amendment

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-

2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Students

5 on Campus Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. TITLE VI AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

7 (a) TITLE VI AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education
2 shall carry out a public awareness campaign regard-
3 ing the availability of rights provided to individuals
4 under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
5 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

6 (2) AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.—The public aware-
7 ness campaign shall include appealing visual and au-
8 ditory elements and shall be updated annually and
9 distributed to institutions of higher education for
10 physical posting in 1 or more high traffic public
11 places, such as student centers, and digital posting
12 on 1 or more high traffic institution web pages, such
13 as student services. The campaign shall utilize such
14 methods and materials as necessary to maximize
15 student accessibility.

16 (3) ABILITY TO CONTRACT.—The Secretary
17 may carry out this subsection directly or through a
18 contract with a nonprofit organization that special-
19 izes in public awareness communications.

20 (b) HEA AMENDMENTS.—Section 487(a) of the
21 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(30) The institution—

24 “(A) has prominently displayed on the
25 homepage of the institution a link to the

1 webpage of the Office for Civil Rights of the
2 Department of Education where an individual
3 can submit a complaint regarding discrimina-
4 tion on the basis of race, color, or national ori-
5 gin in violation of title VI of the Civil Rights
6 Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.); and

7 “(B) will annually display and post the
8 public awareness campaign materials created
9 and distributed under section 2(a) of the Pro-
10 tecting Students on Campus Act of 2025 in
11 high traffic public places on campus, such as
12 student centers, and high traffic institution web
13 pages, such as student services.”.

14 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 30 days
16 after the date of enactment of this Act and ending 1 year
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Sec-
18 retary for Civil Rights shall have the authority to des-
19 ignate an employee of the Department of Education who
20 shall give a monthly briefing to Congress—

21 (1) explaining the number of complaints that
22 the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of
23 Education (referred to in this Act as the “Office”)
24 has received in the previous month regarding dis-
25 crimination on the basis of race, color, or national

1 origin in violation of title VI of the Civil Rights Act
2 of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), disaggregated by
3 the basis of discrimination;

4 (2) describing how the Office plans to address
5 those complaints and the investigations opened in re-
6 sponse to those complaints; and

7 (3) providing data about the length of time that
8 those complaints remain open after being received by
9 the Office.

10 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 48 hours prior to each
11 briefing described in subsection (a), the Department of
12 Education shall provide a written report to Congress that
13 contains the information that will be presented at the next
14 briefing, in a manner that protects personally identifiable
15 information in accordance with applicable privacy laws.

16 **SEC. 4. AUDIT AND STUDY.**

17 (a) REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT DATA.—Each institu-
18 tion of higher education receiving Federal funds shall sub-
19 mit an annual report to the Inspector General of the De-
20 partment of Education that includes—

21 (1) the number of complaints regarding dis-
22 crimination on the basis of race, color, or national
23 origin in violation of title VI of the Civil Rights Act
24 of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) that were sub-
25 mitted to the institution in the previous year;

1 (2) an analysis of the number of such com-
2 plaints and their substance; and

3 (3) a narrative of the action the institution took
4 with respect to such complaints.

5 (b) AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the Depart-
6 ment of Education shall complete an annual audit of the
7 institutions of higher education that are in the top 5 per-
8 cent of institutions based on the per capita number of
9 complaints described in subsection (a) received by the in-
10 stitutions, controlling for student population, to examine
11 the process for addressing such complaints and the need
12 for any referrals to the Office for Civil Rights of the De-
13 partment of Education.

14 (c) STUDY.—The Inspector General of the Depart-
15 ment of Education shall conduct a study—

16 (1) regarding why there is a disparity between
17 the complaints regarding discrimination on the basis
18 of race, color, or national origin in violation of title
19 VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d
20 et seq.) that are submitted to institutions of higher
21 education and such complaints that are submitted to
22 the Office; and

23 (2) quantifying the distinction described in
24 paragraph (1).

1 SEC. 5. OCR PROCESS REFORMS.

2 The Office for Civil Rights of the Department of
3 Education shall not close or dismiss any complaint due
4 to resolution by another State or local civil rights enforce-
5 ment agency or through a recipient's internal grievance
6 procedures.