

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 773

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2001

Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. CORZINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

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 “Campus Fire Safety
5 Right to Know Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND**
 2 **MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO CAMPUS**
 3 **BUILDINGS.**

4 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 5 U.S.C. 1092) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

7 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
 8 paragraph (N);

9 (B) by striking the period at the end of
 10 subparagraph (O) and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 12 subparagraph:

13 “(P) the fire safety report prepared by the in-
 14 stitution pursuant to subsection (h).”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 16 section:

17 “(h) **DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND**
 18 **MEASURES.**—

19 “(1) **FIRE SAFETY REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Each
 20 eligible institution participating in any program
 21 under this title shall, beginning in academic year
 22 2002–2003, and each academic year thereafter, pre-
 23 pare, publish, and distribute, through appropriate
 24 publications, including the Internet, or mailings, to
 25 all current students and employees, and upon re-
 26 quest to any applicant for enrollment or employ-

1 ment, an annual fire safety report containing at
2 least the following information with respect to the
3 campus fire safety practices and standards of that
4 institution:

5 “(A) A statement that identifies each stu-
6 dent housing facility of the institution, and
7 whether each such facility is equipped with a
8 fire sprinkler system or another equally protec-
9 tive fire safety system.

10 “(B) Statistics concerning the occurrence
11 on campus, during the 2 preceding academic
12 years for which data are available, of fires and
13 false fire alarms.

14 “(C) For each such occurrence, a state-
15 ment of the human injuries or deaths and the
16 structural damage caused by the occurrence.

17 “(D) Information regarding fire alarms,
18 smoke alarms, the presence of adequate fire es-
19 cape planning or protocols, rules on portable
20 electrical appliances, smoking and open flames
21 (such as candles), regular mandatory supervised
22 fire drills, and planned and future improvement
23 in fire safety.

24 “(E) Information about fire safety edu-
25 cation and training provided to students, fac-

1 ulty, and staff, including the percentage of stu-
2 dents, faculty, and staff who have participated
3 in such education and training.

4 “(F) Information concerning fire safety at
5 student fraternities and sororities that are rec-
6 ognized by the institution, including—

7 “(i) information reported to the insti-
8 tution under paragraph (5); and

9 “(ii) a statement concerning whether
10 and how the institution works with recog-
11 nized student fraternities and sororities to
12 make buildings and property owned or con-
13 trolled by such fraternities or sororities
14 more fire safe.

15 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
16 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
17 Secretary to require particular policies, procedures,
18 or practices by institutions of higher education with
19 respect to fire safety.

20 “(3) REPORTS.—Each institution participating
21 in any program under this title shall make timely re-
22 ports to the campus community on fires that are re-
23 ported to local fire departments and the incidence of
24 false fire alarms on campus. Such reports shall be
25 provided to students and employees in a manner

1 that is timely and that will aid in the prevention of
2 similar occurrences.

3 “(4) LOGS.—Each institution participating in
4 any program under this title shall make, keep, and
5 maintain a log, written in a form that can be easily
6 understood, recording all fires reported to local fire
7 departments, including the nature, date, time, and
8 general location of each fire, and all false fire
9 alarms. All entries that are required pursuant to this
10 paragraph shall, except where disclosure of such in-
11 formation is prohibited by law, be open to public in-
12 spection.

13 “(5) FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES.—Each
14 institution participating in a program under this
15 title shall request each fraternity and sorority that
16 is recognized by the institution to collect and report
17 to the institution the information described in sub-
18 paragraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1), as ap-
19 plied to the fraternity or sorority, for each building
20 and property owned or controlled by the fraternity
21 or sorority, respectively.

22 “(6) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—On an annual
23 basis, each institution participating in any program
24 under this title shall submit to the Secretary a copy

1 of the statistics required to be made available under
2 paragraph (1)(B). The Secretary shall—

3 “(A) review such statistics;

4 “(B) make copies of the statistics sub-
5 mitted to the Secretary available to the public;
6 and

7 “(C) in coordination with representatives
8 of institutions of higher education, identify ex-
9 emplary fire safety policies, procedures, and
10 practices and disseminate information con-
11 cerning those policies, procedures, and practices
12 that have proven effective in the reduction of
13 campus fires.

14 “(7) DEFINITION OF CAMPUS.—In this sub-
15 section, the term ‘campus’ means—

16 “(A) any building or property owned or
17 controlled by an institution of higher education
18 within the same reasonably contiguous geo-
19 graphic area of the institution and used by the
20 institution in direct support of, or in a manner
21 related to, the institution’s educational pur-
22 poses, including residence halls; and

23 “(B) property within the same reasonably
24 contiguous geographic area of the institution
25 that is owned by the institution but controlled

1 by another person, is used by students, and
2 supports institutional purposes (such as a food
3 or other retail vendor).”.

4 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY SECRETARY OF EDU-**
5 **CATION.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
7 of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall prepare and
8 submit to Congress a report containing—

9 (1) an analysis of the current status of fire
10 safety systems in college and university facilities, in-
11 cluding sprinkler systems;

12 (2) an analysis of the appropriate fire safety
13 standards to apply to these facilities, which the Sec-
14 retary shall prepare after consultation with such fire
15 safety experts, representatives of institutions of
16 higher education, and other Federal agencies as the
17 Secretary, in the Secretary’s discretion, considers
18 appropriate;

19 (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all non-
20 conforming dormitories and other campus buildings
21 up to current new building codes or life safety codes;
22 and

23 (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-
24 cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-

- 1 ards in all college and university facilities, including
- 2 recommendations for methods to fund such cost.

