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Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act Section by Section

Section 1. Short Title

This Act is called the “Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act”.

Section 2. International Education Programs

Amends section 602 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) to include graduate students who are at the beginning level of learning a foreign language as eligible to receive a Foreign Language and Area or International Studies Fellowship.

Amends section 605 of HEA to create a new program that combines and updates the principles and activities of programs authorized in sections 605 and 606 in current law.

- The new program, titled, “International Research and Innovation,” would support necessary international and foreign language (FL) education research and innovation projects. The goal of the program is to assess and strengthen international education capacity, coordination, delivery, and outcomes as it relates to our Nation’s needs.
- The new program requires the Secretary of Education (the Secretary) to conduct research to better understand our nation’s international and FL education capacity, structure, and effectiveness; scale up proven strategies and invest in promising new ideas to deliver international and FL education resources; and develop a database that documents these activities and research.
 - The Secretary and the Department of Education can perform these activities or fulfill the requirements through grants to higher education institutions, libraries, nonprofit educational organizations, or a combination thereof. The federal share for the grant can be no more than two-thirds of the total cost for carrying out the activity.

Amends HEA by striking sections 606 and 610 and renumbering sections 607, 608, and 609 as sections 606, 607, and 608 respectively.

Section 3. Global Business and Professional Education Programs

Amends section 611 of HEA to include other professional communities – such as science, engineering, and law – in the findings and purposes of Part B of HEA

Amends section 613 of HEA to create a new program that combines and updates the principles and activities of programs authorized in sections 606 and 613 of current law.

- The new program, titled, “Professional and Technical Education for Global Competitiveness,” would support innovative initiatives that give undergraduate and graduates students the opportunity to gain or build the skills and perspectives necessary to strengthen the United States’ ability to engage and compete globally.

- The Secretary is required to provide grants to individual or groups of institutions of higher education or a partnership between individual or groups of institutions of higher education and at least one nonprofit entity. Each grantee must provide a dollar for dollar match.
- Grantees must incorporate foreign language programs with immersion opportunities, internship abroad or other opportunities, and economic studies in their academic programs. Grantees must also work with professional communities, corporations, and nonprofit organizations to strengthen their programs and ensure relevance for private and national security needs.
- Grantees may use funds to develop specialized instructional materials, provide student opportunities outside of the traditional school year or over academic breaks, establish exchange programs, and many other innovative activities for academic and career development.
- The Secretary cannot fund this section if Title VI of HEA is appropriated at less than FY17 levels (\$65,103,000).

Amends HEA by striking section 614.

Section 4. Repeal of Assistance Program for Institute for International Public Policy

Amends HEA by repealing Part C of Title VI.

Section 5. General Provisions

Amends section 631 of HEA to include two new definitions for title VI.

- “Community college” is defined as having the same meaning as “junior or community college” in section 312(f) of HEA
- “Minority-serving institution” is defined as an institution of higher education eligible to receive a grant under part A or B of Title III or Title V of HEA.

Amends HEA by striking section 637 and renumbering section 638 as section 637.

Adds a new section, “Section 638 – Priority to Minority-Serving Institutions”

- This section codifies a Department of Education priority under the Obama Administration that requires the Secretary to provide technical assistance to minority-serving institutions to help such institutions submit qualified applications.
- This section also allows the Secretary to give priority to qualified grant applications submitted by minority-serving institutions or institutions of higher education that propose in their grant application significant and sustained collaborative activities with one or more minority-serving institutions.

Amends Part D of Title VI by changing the authorization of appropriations.

- In current law there are two line items that receive appropriations, Part A and Part B. The Secretary then allocates funding to the programs in each part as the Secretary sees fit.
- This section changes the authorization of appropriations to cover Title VI as one line item, not two. The Secretary will then allocate funding across all programs, regardless of which part a program is under, at the discretion of the Secretary.
- The authorization of appropriations is set at \$125 million for Fiscal Year 2019 and adjusted for inflation for each of the five succeeding fiscal years.
- Inflation adjustment percentage is defined as mirroring the CPI-Urban rate.