

**S. 2178/H.R. 3831 - Fire Safe Dorm Act of 2000**

**106th CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION  
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE  
S. 2178  
2000 S. 2178; 106 S. 2178  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE  
H. R. 3831  
2000 H.R. 3831; 106 H.R. 3831**

SYNOPSIS: A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, and for other purposes.

DATE OF INTRODUCTION: March 02, 2000

SPONSOR(S): Sponsor and Cosponsors as of 03/08/2000  
LAUTENBERG, FRANK R (D-NJ) - Sponsor

NOTICE:

\$(A> UPPERCASE TEXT WITHIN THESE SYMBOLS IS ADDED <A]

\$(D> Text within these symbols is deleted <D]

TEXT:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
March 2, 2000

Mr. Lautenberg introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, and for other purposes.

A> Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,<A

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fire Safe Dorm Act of 2000".

TITLE I-OBLIGATIONS OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SEC. 101. IMPROVED DISCLOSURE OF FIRES AND FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES IN COLLEGE DORMITORIES.

Section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(f)) is amended-

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(I) Statistics concerning the occurrence of fires and fire alarms in dormitories on campus during the most recent calendar year, and during the 5 preceding calendar years for which data are available.

"(J) A statement describing whether the institutions' dormitory rooms currently have sprinklers, smoke detectors, and furniture made of flame retardant material.";

(2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(c) Each institution participating in any program under this title shall make, keep, and maintain a daily log, written in a form that can be easily understood, recording all fires reported to local fire departments, including the nature, date, time, and general location of each fire. Such logs shall be open to public inspection."; and

(3) in paragraph (5)--

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "or paragraph

(1)(I)" after "paragraph (1)(F)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting "and campus fires" after "campus crime".

#### SEC. 102. DISCLOSURE OF PLANS TO BRING RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES INTO COMPLIANCE WITH NEW BUILDING CODES.

Section 485(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092)

is amended--

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (N);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (O) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(P) a summary of the specific plans that the institution has adopted for construction or renovation to ensure that all campus residential facilities comply, by January 1, 2010, with the standards established by the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration under section 201 of the Fire Safe Dorm Act of 2000.".

#### SEC. 103. COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR DORMITORIES.

Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a))

is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(24) The institution will adopt, within 10 years after the date of enactment of the Fire Safe Dorm Act of 2000, plans to install sprinklers, smoke detectors, and open flame resistant furniture in dormitories in compliance with the standards established by the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration under section 201 of such Act.".

#### SEC. 104. EXEMPTION.

The amendments made by this title shall not be construed to require the installation of sprinklers in any building or other structure that is listed on the National Register for Historic Places as maintained by the National Park Service under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), if such installation would destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the historic nature of the property. The Secretary of Education shall determine disputes concerning the application of this exemption by reference of the matter to the Secretary of the Interior.

#### TITLE II-DORMITORY FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

##### SEC. 201. STANDARDS.

(a) Establishment. Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall establish measurable standards for dormitory fire safety. Such standards shall include mandatory fire sprinklers, smoke detectors, and open flame resistant furniture and mattresses.

(b) Outreach. The Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall undertake appropriate activities to encourage the adoption by State and local authorities of the standards established under subsection (a).

U. S. Senate  
S 2178  
2000 Bill Tracking S. 2178; 106 Bill Tracking S. 2178  
FIRE SAFE DORM ACT OF 2000  
DATE-INTRO: March 02, 2000  
LAST-ACTION-DATE: March 2, 2000  
STATUS: In committee  
SPONSOR: Senator Frank R. Lautenberg D-NJ  
TOTAL-COSPONSORS: 0 Cosponsors: 0 Democrats / 0 Republicans SYNOPSIS: A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, and for other purposes.  
ACTIONS: Committee Referrals:  
03/02/2000 Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Legislative Chronology:  
1st Session Activity:  
2nd Session Activity:  
03/02/2000 146 Cong Rec S 1118  
Referred to the Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor, and Pensions  
03/02/2000 146 Cong Rec S 1125  
Remarks by Sen. LAUTENBERG, FRANK R (D-NJ)

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Bill Tracking Report  
106th Congress  
2nd Session  
U. S. House of Representatives  
HR 3831  
2000 Bill Tracking H.R. 3831; 106 Bill Tracking H.R. 3831

DATE-INTRO: March 02, 2000  
LAST-ACTION-DATE: March 2, 2000  
STATUS: In committee  
SPONSOR: Representative Carolyn Maloney D-NY  
TOTAL-COSPONSORS: 1 Cosponsors: 1 Democrats / 0 Republicans SYNOPSIS: A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, and for other purposes.  
ACTIONS: Committee Referrals:  
03/02/2000 House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
03/02/2000 House Committee on Science  
Legislative Chronology:  
1st Session Activity:  
2nd Session Activity:  
03/02/2000 146 Cong Rec H 641  
Referred to the House Committee on Education  
and the Workforce  
03/02/2000 146 Cong Rec H 641  
Referred to the House Committee on Science  
CO-SPONSORS: Original Cosponsors: Holt D-NJ