



S. 3352 – A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 3352 is expected to be considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) on July 28, 2008. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent the same day.

S. 3352 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 30, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 3352 extends the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-81) through August 15, 2008.

**Note: This is the eighth extension of the Higher Education Act this Congress.*

BACKGROUND

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society domestic agenda. The goal of this Act was "to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education."

The Higher Education Act authorizes the federal government's student aid programs to support postsecondary education attendance. It also authorizes other major programs such as those providing assistance to special groups of Institutions of Higher Education and support services to enable disadvantaged students to complete secondary school and enter and complete college. The Higher Education Act of 1965 was reauthorized in 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1986, 1992, and 1998.

On June 28, 2007, the House passed the First Higher Education Extension Act of 2007 by voice vote. The bill extended the Higher Education Act through July 31, 2007. The President signed this into law on July 3, 2007 (P.L. 110-44).

The House passed the Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2007 on July 25, 2007. The bill extended the Higher Education Act through October 31, 2007. The President signed this into law on July 31, 2007 (P.L. 110-51). The House and Senate passed a third short-term extension of the Higher Education Act in October 2007, which the President signed into law (P.L. 110-109) on October 31, 2007.

An additional extension was signed into law (P.L. 110-198) on March 24, 2008, and expired on April 30, 2008. The fifth short term extension (P.L. 110-230) was signed into law by the President on May 14, 2008. The sixth extension was signed into law on May 30, 2008, and extended the program through June 30, 2008 (P.L. 110-238). The most recent legislation (P.L. 110- 256) extended the program through July 31, 2008.

On July 29, 2008, the Senate passed the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008 (H.R. 4137) as amended and requested a conference with the House.

**Note: The House and Senate have been holding informal negotiations on their respective Higher Education Reauthorization bills (H.R. 4137 and S. 1642) since February 2008. ([Legislative Digest for H.R. 4137](#))*

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