
NOV/DEC 2017

REGION III

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



1. FEDERAL UPDATES

- ☐ Tax Reform Bill. The legislation calls for new taxes on graduate students and the endowments held by wealthy institutions, and the elimination of several student and family tax benefits.
- ☐ Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), H.R. 4508 or the [Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity Through Education Reform \(PROSPER\) Act](#). The House Committee on Education and the Workforce has introduced and is marking up the legislation in the coming weeks. The proposed overhaul of the Higher Education Act would [add performance-funding standards for most colleges](#). Other highlights include:
 - New Title IV student aid eligibility for short-term programs;
 - New authority for colleges to reduce loan amounts for categories of students, a longstanding association priority;
 - Restoration of eligibility for most “Ability-to-Benefit” students, i.e., those without a high school diploma or G.E.D.;
 - A new authorization for a federal apprenticeship program.
 - New “Return of Title IV Funds” provisions that will often require institutions to return funding to the government for students who do not complete their periods of enrollment;
 - Elimination of the Title III-A, Strengthening Institutions Program;
 - Elimination of the in-school interest subsidy on student loans, increasing the cost of education of many community college student borrowers.

As of 2015, the HEA no longer sunsets as it did over the decades since its inception, and its reauthorization is not legally necessary for programs authorized under current law to continue.

2. TITLE IX UPDATES

- ☐ Republican proposal would allow colleges to delay campus assault proceedings at law enforcement request, amend reporting requirements. More information [here](#).

3. FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ HB 4508, referred to as the PROSPER Act has many financial aid implications. NASFAA’s summary is included [here](#) for reference. Other highlights include:

Consolidating financial aid programs

- Eliminating the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant

- Ending subsidized Stafford Loans
- Adds to the Pell Grants
- Interest in spending more on the Federal Work-Study program

Weakening the repayment safety net

- New income-driven repayment plan requires borrowers to pay 15 percent of their discretionary income (everyone required to pay \$25 a month)
- Gets rid of loan forgiveness for some
- Ends new borrowers ability for public service loan forgiveness

Loan limit changes

- Undergrads can borrow up to \$2000 more each year
- Undergrads with parental assistance can receive between \$7500 to \$9500 (\$39000 lifetime limit)
- Independent undergrads can borrow between \$11500 and \$14500 (\$60250 lifetime limit)
- Graduate students face new caps on loans

Selling federal loans

- Allows the Education Secretary to sell federal student loans to private investors

4. STATE UPDATES

Alabama	No updates provided.
Florida	Florida updates can be found on the following website: https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/00002
Georgia	No updates provided.
Kentucky	No updates provided.
Louisiana	No updates provided.
Mississippi	No updates provided.
North Carolina	No updates provided.
South Carolina	No updates provided.
Tennessee	No updates provided.
Texas	No updates provided.
Virginia	No updates provided.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly posts to the RPI blog (<http://www.naspa.org/rpi>)

Monthly Public Policy Briefing Series

- Sign up: <https://olc.naspa.org/catalog/naspa-policy-briefing-series>

November PPD Blog Post: [Policy Considerations for Adult Learner Support](#)

NASPA Hill and National Student Affairs Day of Action (July 16-17, 2018), an opportunity for NASPA members to advocate with their Congressional delegations. We haven't yet begun to promote it through the various NASPA communications channels, but you are welcome to start sharing it with those you think might be interested. In addition to the in-person event, we'll be offering monthly live briefings throughout the spring and will be making letter templates and other materials available for student affairs professionals to use to reach out to their state and federal elected officials as part of the National Student Affairs Day of Action on July 17, 2017.

If you want to get more involved in public policy at the state level, the following states have State Public Policy Directors that you can contact. Here is the listing of State Public Policy Directors in Region III:

Dr. Jody Conway	Florida - University of South Florida	jodyconway@usf.edu
Darryl Holloman	Georgia – Georgia State University	dholloman@gsu.edu
Neil Jamerson	South Carolina - Furman	neil.jamerson@furman.edu
Dr. Heidi Leming	Tennessee - TBR	hleming@tbr.edu
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This monthly newsletter is compiled by the NASPA Region III Public Policy Representative, Dr. Heidi Leming. If you would like to send suggestions for the next newsletter, please email hleming@tbr.edu.