119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the definition of professional degree in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. GALLEGO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the definition of professional degree in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Professional Student Degree Act''.

SEC. 2. PROFESSIONAL DEGREE DEFINED.

Section 455(a)(4)(C) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)(4)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ", as defined under section 668.2 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph),"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) PROFESSIONAL DEGREE.—In this paragraph, the term 'professional degree'—

"(I) means a degree that signifies both completion of the academic requirements for beginning practice in a given profession (for which professional licensure is also commonly required), and a level of professional skill beyond that normally required for a bachelor's degree, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(II) includes each of the following degrees:

"(aa) Pharmacy (Pharm.D.).

"(bb) Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.).

"(cc) Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.).

"(dd) Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.).

"(ee) Law (L.L.B. or J.D.).

"(ff) Medicine (M.D.).

"(gg) Optometry (O.D.).

"(hh) Osteopathic Medicine/Osteopathy (D.O.).

"(ii) Podiatric Medicine/Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., or Pod.D.).

"(jj) Theology/Theological Studies (M.Div. or M.H.L.).

"(kk) Clinical Psychology (Psy.D. or Ph.D.).

"(ll) Ministry (D.Min.).

"(mm) Social Work (M.S.W. or D.S.W.).

"(nn) Audiology (Au.D.).

"(oo) Physician Assistant/Associate (M.P.A.S., M.S.P.A.S., M.M.S., or M.S.).

"(pp) Occupational Therapy (M.O.T. of O.T.D.).

"(qq) Physical Therapy (D.P.T.).

"(rr) Nursing (M.S.N., D.N.P., or Ph.D.).

"(ss) Public Health (M.P.H.).

"(tt) Business Administration and Management, General (M.B.A. or D.B.A.).

"(uu) Accounting (M.Acc. or M.S.A.).

"(vv) Architecture (M.Arch.).

"(ww) Education (M.A., M.S., M.A.T., M.Ed.).

"(xx) Special Education (M.Ed. or M.S.Ed.).

"(yy) Any other degree that meets the requirements of subclause (I), as determined by the Secretary.".