



Last Updated: August 5, 2019

Federal Professional Certification-Related Bills Introduced During the 116 <sup>th</sup> Congress			
Bill #	Introduced	Status	Summary
<a href="#">S. 379</a>  Primary Sponsor: Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	2/7/2019	2/7/2019  Read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amends the Internal Revenue Code to permit beneficiaries to use funds in 529 plans for expenses associated with postsecondary credentials, which include professional certificates or certifications.</li> <li>See <a href="#">"Professional Certification Coalition Support for S. 379"</a> on the PCC website.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">H.R. 1893</a>  Primary Sponsor: Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)	H.R. 1893: 3/26/2019  S. 697: 3/7/2019	4/8/2019  Referred to the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.  3/7/2019  Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title VIII – entitled the "Fair Chance Licensing Act" – is relevant to professional certification.</li> <li>See <a href="#">"Legislative Monitoring Analysis: H.R. 1893 and S.697"</a> on the PCC website.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">S. 697</a>  Primary Sponsor: Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)			
<a href="#">S. 2123</a>  Primary Sponsor: Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO)	7/16/2019	7/16/2019  Read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevance to PCC: This legislation provides financial assistance that individuals can use to get training that would prepare them to seek a credential from a private certification organization, which indirectly benefits certification programs and individuals seeking certification.</li> <li>Entitled the "Break the Higher Education Monopoly Act of 2019."</li> <li>Amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to devise an alternative certification program to enable students to use Federal Pell Grants to enroll in educational programs for which students are not otherwise eligible to use Federal Pell Grants. Note: the term "certification" is used here not to reference an individual credential, but rather to denote approval of an educational program as a recipient of student Pell Grant funds.</li> <li>Enumerates the requirements and process to determine the eligibility of educational programs applying for certification under the alternative certification program, including by providing that the Secretary of Education must determine educational program eligibility under the alternative certification program based on student outcomes in the educational program (including program completion rate, job placement rate, median salary, etc.). Approved programs must have been in operation for at least</li> </ul>



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			<p>five years. There is no requirement that programs be accredited by any accrediting body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides that the Secretary of Education may decertify an educational program if the program meets any of the following: (A) The program completion rate is less than 70 percent, (B) The job placement rate within 90 days of program completion is less than 50 percent, (C) The job placement rate within 12 months of program completion is less than 70 percent, (D) The graduate median starting salary is less than 200 percent of the Federal poverty level for a one-person household, or (E) The graduate median salary 5 years after program completion is less than 300 percent of the Federal poverty level for a one-person household.</li></ul>