

Union Calendar No. 526

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5528

[Report No. 114–678]

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to simplify the FAFSA, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2016

Mr. HECK of Nevada (for himself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. POCAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

JULY 11, 2016

Additional sponsors: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. KLINE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mrs. DAVIS of California

JULY 11, 2016

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 20, 2016]

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to simplify
the FAFSA, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Simplifying the Appli-*
 5 *cation for Student Aid Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. USING DATA FROM SECOND PRECEDING YEAR.**

7 *Section 480(a)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of*
 8 *1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking*
 9 *“may” in both places it appears and inserting “shall”.*

10 **SEC. 3. CALCULATION OF ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT PERCENT-**
 11 **AGE FOR FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.**

12 *Section 401(b)(7)(C)(iv)(I) of the Higher Education*
 13 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(C)(iv)(I)) is amended*
 14 *by striking “calendar year” and inserting “fiscal year”.*

15 **SEC. 4. FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION.**

16 *(a) FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION.—Section 483 of the*
 17 *Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090) is amend-*
 18 *ed—*

19 *(1) in subsection (a)(3), by adding at the end the*
 20 *following:*

21 *“(I) FORMAT.—Not later than 180 days*
 22 *after the date of the enactment of the Simpli-*
 23 *fying the Application for Student Aid Act, the*
 24 *Secretary shall make the electronic version of the*
 25 *forms under this paragraph available through a*

1 *technology tool that can be used on mobile de-*
2 *vices. Such technology tool shall, at minimum,*
3 *enable applicants to—*

4 *“(i) save data; and*

5 *“(ii) submit their FAFSA to the Sec-*
6 *retary through such tool.*

7 *“(J) CONSUMER TESTING.—In developing*
8 *and maintaining the electronic version of the*
9 *forms under this paragraph and the technology*
10 *tool for mobile devices under subparagraph (I),*
11 *the Secretary shall conduct consumer testing*
12 *with appropriate persons to ensure the forms*
13 *and technology tool are designed to be easily usa-*
14 *ble and understandable by students and families.*
15 *Such consumer testing shall include—*

16 *“(i) current and prospective college*
17 *students, family members of such students,*
18 *and other individuals with expertise in stu-*
19 *dent financial assistance application proc-*
20 *esses;*

21 *“(ii) dependent students and inde-*
22 *pendent students meeting the requirements*
23 *under subsection (b) or (c) of section 479;*
24 *and*

1 “(iii) dependent students and inde-
2 pendent students who do not meet the re-
3 quirements under subsection (b) or (c) of
4 section 479.”; and

5 (2) by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

6 “(f) *USE OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE DATA RE-*
7 *TRIEVAL TOOL TO POPULATE FAFSA.*—

8 “(1) *SIMPLIFICATION EFFORTS.*—*The Secretary*
9 *shall—*

10 “(A) *make every effort to use data available*
11 *from the Internal Revenue Service to reduce the*
12 *amount of original data entry by applicants and*
13 *strengthen the reliability of data used to cal-*
14 *culate expected family contributions, including*
15 *through the use of technology to—*

16 “(i) *automatically populate the elec-*
17 *tronic version of the forms under this para-*
18 *graph with data available from the Internal*
19 *Revenue Service; and*

20 “(ii) *direct an applicant to appro-*
21 *priate questions on such forms based on the*
22 *applicant’s answers to previous questions;*
23 *and*

24 “(B) *allow single taxpayers, married tax-*
25 *payers filing jointly, and married taxpayers fil-*

1 *ing separately to utilize the data retrieval tool to*
2 *its full capacity.*

3 “(2) *USE OF TAX RETURN IN APPLICATION PROC-*
4 *ESS.—The Secretary shall continue to examine wheth-*
5 *er data provided by the Internal Revenue Service can*
6 *be used to generate an expected family contribution*
7 *without additional action on the part of the student*
8 *and taxpayer.*

9 “(3) *REPORTS ON FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION EF-*
10 *FORTS.—Not less than once every other year, the Sec-*
11 *retary shall report to the authorizing committees on*
12 *the progress of the simplification efforts under this*
13 *subsection.*

14 “(4) *REPORTS ON FAFSA ACCESS.—Not less than*
15 *once every 10 years, the Secretary shall report to the*
16 *authorizing committees on the needs of limited*
17 *English proficient students using the FAFSA.”.*

18 (b) *FUNDING.—*

19 (1) *USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—Of the amount*
20 *authorized to be appropriated to the Department of*
21 *Education to maintain the Free Application for Fed-*
22 *eral Student Aid, \$3,000,000 shall be available to*
23 *carry out this Act and the amendments made by this*
24 *Act.*

1 (2) *NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No*
2 *funds are authorized by this Act to be appropriated*
3 *to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this*
4 *Act.*

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