

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1959

To provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2015

Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid.

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 “College Options for  
5       DREAMers Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7       The purpose of this Act is to invest in highly moti-  
8       vated college students who came to the United States,

1 grew up in our churches and schools, and want to con-  
2 tribute to the Nation by earning a college degree, making  
3 more money and paying higher taxes, starting businesses,  
4 hiring American workers, and spending more to strenght-  
5 en the Nation’s economy.

6 **SEC. 3. COLLEGE OPTIONS FOR DREAMER STUDENTS.**

7 Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
8 U.S.C. 1091) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)(5), by inserting “or be a  
10 Dreamer student, as defined in subsection (u)” after  
11 “becoming a citizen or permanent resident”; and

12 (2) by inserting at the end the following:

13 “(u) DREAMER STUDENTS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term  
15 ‘Dreamer student’ means an individual who—

16 “(A) was younger than 16 years of age on  
17 the date on which the individual initially en-  
18 tered the United States;

19 “(B) has provided a list of each secondary  
20 school (as that term is defined in section 9101  
21 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
22 Act of 1965) that the student attended in the  
23 United States; and

24 “(C)(i) has earned a high school diploma,  
25 the recognized equivalent of such diploma from

1 a secondary school, a high school equivalency  
2 diploma in the United States, or is scheduled to  
3 complete the requirements for such a diploma  
4 or equivalent before the next academic year be-  
5 gins;

6 “(ii) has acquired a degree from an institu-  
7 tion of higher education or has completed not  
8 less than 2 years in a program for a bacca-  
9 laurate degree or higher degree at an institu-  
10 tion of higher education in the United States  
11 and has made satisfactory academic progress,  
12 as defined in subsection (c), during such time  
13 period;

14 “(iii) is a beneficiary of the Deferred Ac-  
15 tion for Childhood Arrivals program pursuant  
16 to the Department of Homeland Security Sec-  
17 retary’s memorandum on June 15, 2012, or  
18 November 20, 2014; or

19 “(iv) has served in the uniformed services,  
20 as defined in section 101 of title 10, United  
21 States Code, for not less than 4 years and, if  
22 discharged, received an honorable discharge.

23 “(2) HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of  
24 Education shall issue regulations that direct when  
25 the Department shall waive the requirement of sub-

1 paragraph (A) or (B), or both, of paragraph (1) to  
2 qualify as a Dreamer student under such paragraph,  
3 if the individual—

4 “(A) demonstrates compelling cir-  
5 cumstances for the inability to satisfy the re-  
6 quirement of such subparagraph (A) or (B), or  
7 both; and

8 “(B) satisfies the requirement under para-  
9 graph (1)(C).”.

10 **SEC. 4. RESTORATION OF STATE OPTION TO DETERMINE**  
11 **RESIDENCY FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDU-**  
12 **CATION.**

13 (a) **REPEAL.**—Section 505 of the Illegal Immigration  
14 Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8  
15 U.S.C. 1623) is repealed.

16 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The repeal under subsection  
17 (a) shall take effect as if included in the original enact-  
18 ment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant  
19 Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104–  
20 208).

○