

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5528

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 12, 2016

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Simplifying the Appli-
3 cation for Student Aid Act”.

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

5 Section 480(a)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking
7 “may” in both places it appears and inserting “shall”.

8 **SEC. 3. CALCULATION OF ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT PERCENT-**
9 **AGE FOR FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.**

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

13 **SEC. 4. FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION.**

14 (a) FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION.—Section 483 of the
15 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090) is
16 amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by adding at the end
18 the following:

19 “(I) **FORMAT.**—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of the enactment of the Simpli-
21 fying the Application for Student Aid Act, the
22 Secretary shall make the electronic version of
23 the forms under this paragraph available
24 through a technology tool that can be used on
25 mobile devices. Such technology tool shall, at
26 minimum, enable applicants to—

1 “(i) save data; and

2 “(ii) submit their FAFSA to the Sec-
3 retary through such tool.

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

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

18 “(ii) dependent students and inde-
19 pendent students meeting the requirements
20 under subsection (b) or (c) of section 479;
21 and

22 “(iii) dependent students and inde-
23 pendent students who do not meet the re-
24 quirements under subsection (b) or (c) of
25 section 479.”; and

1 (2) by amending subsection (f) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(f) USE OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE DATA
4 RETRIEVAL TOOL TO POPULATE FAFSA.—

5 “(1) SIMPLIFICATION EFFORTS.—The Sec-
6 retary shall—

7 “(A) make every effort to allow applicants
8 to utilize the current data retrieval tool to
9 transfer data available from the Internal Rev-
10 enue Service to reduce the amount of original
11 data entry by applicants and strengthen the re-
12 liability of data used to calculate expected fam-
13 ily contributions, including through the use of
14 technology to—

15 “(i) allow an applicant to automati-
16 cally populate the electronic version of the
17 forms under this paragraph with data
18 available from the Internal Revenue Serv-
19 ice; and

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

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

1 ing separately to utilize the current data re-
2 trieval tool to its full capacity.

3 “(2) USE OF TAX RETURN IN APPLICATION
4 PROCESS.—The Secretary shall continue to examine
5 whether data provided by the Internal Revenue Serv-
6 ice can be used to generate an expected family con-
7 tribution without additional action on the part of the
8 student and taxpayer.

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

14 “(4) REPORTS ON FAFSA ACCESS.—Not less
15 than once every 10 years, the Secretary shall report
16 to the authorizing committees on the needs of lim-
17 ited 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.

