

FAFSA Deadline Act

[Public Law 118–145]

[This law has not been amended]

【Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 118–145. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/>】

【Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).】

AN ACT To establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA.

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

SECTION 1. [20 U.S.C. 1001 note] SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “FAFSA Deadline Act”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLIER APPLICATION PROCESSING CYCLE.

Section 483(d)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(d)(4)) is amended by striking “not later than January 1 of the applicant’s planned year of enrollment, to the maximum extent practicable, on or around October 1 prior to the applicant’s planned year of enrollment” and inserting “not later than October 1 prior to the applicant’s planned year of enrollment”.

SEC. 3. CERTIFICATION AND TESTIMONY REQUIREMENTS.

Section 483(d)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(d)(4)) is further amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) CERTIFICATION AND TESTIMONY REQUIREMENTS.—

The Secretary shall, with respect to each application processing cycle, prior to the initiation of such processing cycle—

“(i) on a date that is not later than September 1—

“(I) certify to the authorizing committees that the Department will meet the October 1 deadline specified in subparagraph (A) for such processing cycle; or

“(II) certify to such committees that the Department will not meet such deadline; and

“(ii) in the case of a certification described in clause (i)(II), on a date that is not later than September 30, testify before the authorizing committees on—

“(I) the anticipated failure to meet such deadline; and

“(II) the financial impact such failure will have on students and families.”.