

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5784

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to simplify the FAFSA requirements for dependent students, 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 “File Once FAFSA Act
5 of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION.**

7 (a) ONE-TIME FAFSA FILING FOR DEPENDENT
8 STUDENTS.—Section 483(a) of the Higher Education Act
9 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)) is amended by adding at the
10 end the following:

1 “(13) ONE-TIME FAFSA FILING FOR DEPEND-
2 ENT STUDENTS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
4 other provision of this section and subject to
5 subparagraphs (B) and (C), an applicant who
6 submits a FAFSA for the first time during the
7 period required for the completion of the first
8 undergraduate baccalaureate course of study
9 being pursued by such applicant and is deter-
10 mined to be a dependent student who is eligible
11 to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the aca-
12 demic year for which the applicant submitted
13 such FAFSA—

14 “(i) for any succeeding academic year
15 for which the applicant does not submit a
16 FAFSA and for which the applicant sub-
17 mits a certification form described in sub-
18 paragraph (D) based on which the Sec-
19 retary confirms that the applicant is a de-
20 pendent student for such year—

21 “(I) shall not be required to sub-
22 mit a FAFSA to receive financial as-
23 sistance under this title; and

24 “(II) shall have an expected fam-
25 ily contribution for such year that is

1 equal to the expected family contribu-
2 tion of the applicant determined for
3 the academic year for which the appli-
4 cant submitted a FAFSA during such
5 period, except that an adjustment to
6 such expected family contribution may
7 be made under section 479A;

8 “(ii) if the applicant submits a
9 FAFSA for any succeeding academic
10 year—

11 “(I) shall have an expected fam-
12 ily contribution for such year that is
13 determined based on such FAFSA;
14 and

15 “(II) shall be required to submit
16 a FAFSA for any other academic year
17 for which the applicant seeks financial
18 assistance under this title; and

19 “(iii) if the applicant is determined to
20 be an independent student for any suc-
21 ceeding academic year or does not submit
22 a certification form described in subpara-
23 graph (D), shall submit a FAFSA for such
24 succeeding academic year and any other

1 academic year for which the applicant
2 seeks financial assistance under this title.

3 “(B) ADJUSTMENT OF EXPECTED FAMILY
4 CONTRIBUTION.—With respect to an applicant
5 described in subparagraph (A)(i) who receives
6 an adjustment under section 479A to the ex-
7 pected family contribution of the applicant for
8 an academic year, for any succeeding academic
9 year after the academic year for which the ad-
10 justment was made, subclause (II) of such sub-
11 paragraph shall be applied to such applicant by
12 substituting ‘expected family contribution of the
13 applicant as most recently adjusted under sec-
14 tion 479A for such applicant’ for the ‘expected
15 family contribution of the applicant determined
16 for the academic year for which the applicant
17 submitted a FAFSA during such period’.

18 “(C) RULE FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.—
19 With respect to an applicant who submits a
20 FAFSA for academic year 2016–2017 and en-
21 rolls in an institution of higher education for
22 such year, subparagraph (A) shall be applied—

23 “(i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
24 by substituting ‘academic year 2016–2017’
25 for ‘the first time’; and

1 “(ii) in clause (i)(II), by substituting
2 ‘academic year 2016–2017’ for ‘the aca-
3 demic year for which the applicant sub-
4 mitted a FAFSA during such period’.

5 “(D) DEPENDENT STUDENT CERTIFI-
6 CATION FORM.—The Secretary, in cooperation
7 with representatives of agencies and organiza-
8 tions involved in student financial assistance,
9 shall use behavioral science insights to produce,
10 distribute, and process free of charge a short
11 and simple consumer-tested dependent student
12 certification form that uses skip logic to bypass
13 fields that are inapplicable to an applicant.
14 Such form shall not require an applicant to pro-
15 vide data that the Secretary may otherwise ob-
16 tain with respect to the applicant (such as age
17 or active duty military status), and may only
18 contain the data elements required for purposes
19 of subparagraph (A)(i)—

20 “(i) to confirm that the applicant is a
21 dependent student;

22 “(ii) to allow the applicant to update
23 the contact information of such applicant
24 or the Federal School Code of the institu-
25 tion of higher education in which the appli-

1 cant is, or will be enrolled, for the aca-
2 demic year for which the applicant submits
3 such form; and

4 “(iii) to ask whether the applicant’s
5 need and eligibility for financial assistance
6 under this title has not changed substan-
7 tially since the most recent of the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(I) The applicant submitted a
10 FAFSA.

11 “(II) The applicant received an
12 adjustment under section 479A to the
13 expected family contribution of the
14 applicant.

15 “(E) SUCCEEDING ACADEMIC YEAR DE-
16 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘suc-
17 ceeding academic year’—

18 “(i) when used with respect to an ap-
19 plicant who submits a FAFSA for the first
20 time for an academic year during the pe-
21 riod required for the completion of the first
22 undergraduate baccalaureate course of
23 study being pursued by such applicant,
24 means any academic year during such pe-
25 riod that follows the academic year for

1 which the applicant submits such FAFSA;
2 and

3 “(ii) when used with respect to an ap-
4 plicant described in subparagraph (C),
5 means any academic year after academic
6 year 2016–2017 during the period required
7 for the completion of the first under-
8 graduate baccalaureate course of study
9 being pursued by such applicant.”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
11 this section shall be effective with respect to determining
12 the expected family contribution of applicants for award
13 year 2017–2018 and each succeeding award year.

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