

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3516

To require the Internal Revenue Service to meet higher standards in security screening and to improve the process for obtaining return information and verification of nonfiling in connection with completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2017

Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. MOORE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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 require the Internal Revenue Service to meet higher standards in security screening and to improve the process for obtaining return information and verification of nonfiling in connection with completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

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 “Reduce Barriers to
5 College Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED IRS IDENTITY AUTHENTICATION PROC-**
2 **ESS.**

3 The Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall ensure
4 that the implemented authentication processes used for all
5 current and future online applications provide the level of
6 assurance required by National Institute for Standards
7 and Technology standards for the determined level of au-
8 thentication risk, as recommended by the Treasury In-
9 spector General for Tax Administration.

10 **SEC. 3. VERIFICATION OF NONFILING IN CONNECTION**
11 **WITH FAFSA APPLICATION.**

12 (a) ONLINE PORTAL.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-
15 sioner of Internal Revenue (in consultation with the
16 Secretary of Education) shall establish an online
17 portal for individuals to request and have submitted
18 a verification of nonfiling for any taxable year to the
19 Secretary of Education as part of the process of
20 completing the individual's Free Application for
21 Federal Student Aid.

22 (2) AUTHENTICATION.—Any such verification
23 shall not be approved for submission through such
24 portal process unless the individual's identity is au-
25 thenticated by a valid social security number and
26 any one of the following:

1 (A) Personal account number from a credit
 2 card, mortgage, home equity loan, home equity
 3 line of credit, or car loan.

4 (B) Mobile phone with the individual's
 5 name on the account.

6 (C) Household utility bill associated with
 7 the individual's mailing address.

8 (D) Student transcripts.

9 (E) Bank account statement.

10 (F) Passport or State issued driver's li-
 11 cense.

12 (b) RESPONSE TIME FOR VERIFICATION OF NON-
 13 FILING IN CONNECTION WITH FAFSA.—The Internal
 14 Revenue Service shall, not later than 10 business days
 15 after receipt from the individual, process any request for,
 16 or respond to any inquiries relating to, a verification of
 17 nonfiling in connection with an individual's Free Applica-
 18 tion for Federal Student Aid.

19 **SEC. 4. SIMPLIFIED NEEDS TEST.**

20 Section 479 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 21 U.S.C. 1087ss) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i)(II), by inserting
 23 before the semicolon at the end the following: “or
 24 has obtained a verification of nonfiling from the
 25 Commissioner of Internal Revenue”; and

1 (2) in subsection (c)(2)(A)(ii), by inserting be-
2 fore the semicolon at the end the following: “or has
3 obtained a verification of nonfiling from the Com-
4 missioner of Internal Revenue”.

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