

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2015

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to simplify the financial aid application process, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIND, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) 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 financial aid application process, 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 “Equitable Student Aid
5 Access Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ZERO EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.**

7 (a) SIMPLIFIED NEEDS TEST.—Section 479(b)(1) of
8 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 1087ss(b)(1)) is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

11 (A) in subclause (II), by adding “or” at
12 the end;

13 (B) in subclause (III), by striking “or” at
14 the end and inserting “and”; and

15 (C) by striking subclause (IV); and

16 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

17 (A) in subclause (II), by adding “or” at
18 the end;

19 (B) in subclause (III), by striking “or” at
20 the end and inserting “and”; and

21 (C) by striking subclause (IV).

22 (b) ZERO EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.—Sec-
23 tion 479(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
24 U.S.C. 1087ss(c)) is amended—

25 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by inserting “except as provided in
2 paragraph (3),” before “in the case of”;

3 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

4 (i) in clause (ii), by adding “or” at
5 the end;

6 (ii) in clause (iii) by striking “or” at
7 the end and inserting “and”; and

8 (iii) by striking clause (iv); and

9 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”
10 at the end;

11 (2) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) by inserting “except as provided in
13 paragraph (3),” before “in the case of”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) in clause (ii), by adding “or” at
16 the end;

17 (ii) in clause (iii) by striking “or” at
18 the end and inserting “and”; and

19 (iii) by striking clause (iv); and

20 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
21 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

22 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(3)(A) in the case of a dependent student, the
25 student or a member of the student’s household re-

1 received benefits at some time during the previous 24-
2 month period under a means-tested Federal benefit
3 program as defined under subsection (d); or

4 “(B) in the case of an independent student
5 (without regard to whether such student has depend-
6 ents), the student received benefits at some time
7 during the previous 24-month period under a means-
8 tested Federal benefit program as defined under
9 subsection (d).”.

10 (c) INCOME THRESHOLD.—Section 479(c) of the
11 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ss(c)) is
12 amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “\$23,000”
14 and inserting “\$30,000”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “\$23,000”
16 and inserting “\$30,000”.

17 (d) MEANS-TESTED FEDERAL BENEFIT PRO-
18 GRAM.—Section 479(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act
19 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ss(d)(2)) is amended by striking
20 subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

21 “(C) the Medicaid program established
22 under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42
23 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);”.

1 **SEC. 3. USING DATA FROM SECOND PRECEDING YEAR.**

2 Section 480(a)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “may” in both places it appears
5 and inserting “shall”; and

6 (2) by striking “sharing of data between” and
7 inserting “sharing of data, to the extent such data
8 is available, between”.

9 **SEC. 4. EARLY FAFSA SUBMISSION.**

10 Section 483(a)(8) of the Higher Education Act of
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(8)) is amended by striking “as
12 early as practicable prior to January 1 of” and inserting
13 “not later than October 1 of the year preceding”.

14 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
16 respect to award years beginning after the date of the en-
17 actment of this Act.

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