

Senate Education Reauthorization Bill Has Bipartisan Support

Higher Education Act (HEA) Senate Reauthorization Bill

114th Congress

NAME	BILL	PROPOSALS
Financial Aid Simplification and Transparency Act (FAST)	S108	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminates the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) by reducing the 10-page form to just two questions: What is your family size? What was your household income two years ago?• Tells families early in the college admission process what the federal government will provide in grants and loans.• Streamlines the federal grant and loans program.• Restores year-round Pell grant availability and provides flexibility to complete college sooner.• Limits the amount a student is able to borrow based on enrollment.• Streamlines repayment program and transitions to two plans: an income-based plan and a 10-year repayment plan.

Latest Action: Introduced – Read Twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Source: “Financial Aid Simplification and Transparency Act,” Help.Senate.gov.

Two HEA Reauthorization Bills Have Passed the House

Higher Education Act (HEA) House Reauthorization Bills

114th Congress

NAME	BILL	PROPOSALS
Simplifying the Application for Student Aid Act	HR 3177	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amends Title IV (Student Assistance) of the HEA to require the Dept. of Education to provide for the use of tax info from the preceding tax year to determine a students’ financial aid eligibility.Requires data sharing between the IRS and DoE, pursuant to taxpayer consent.
Strengthening Transparency for Higher Education Act	HR 3178	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amends Title I of the HEA to modify consumer information disclosure requirements related to college costs and student characteristics.Eliminates the existing restriction that limits calculations of cost of attendance, net price, and tuition and fees to first time students only.No longer requires DoE to make college affordability and transparency lists publicly available.
Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act	HR 3179	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amends Title IV to modify loan counseling requirements for universities that participate in federal student aid programs.Requires annual counseling; includes Pell grant recipients and parent PLUS loan borrowers among those that require counseling.
Flexible Pell Grant for 21 st Century Students Act	HR 3180	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expands flexibility for Pell grants so students can complete education more quickly at a lower cost.

Latest Actions:

- HR 3177: Introduced – Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training
- HR 3178: Passed House – Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- HR 3179: Passed House – Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- HR 3180: Introduced – Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training

Source: House.gov.