

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2072

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide alternative identity verification procedures for individuals applying for Federal student assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. VEASEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide alternative identity verification procedures for individuals applying for Federal student assistance, 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 “Fairness in Financial
5 Aid Act” or the “FIFA Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUM-**
2 **BER FOR FEDERAL STUDENT ASSISTANCE**
3 **APPLICATION.**

4 Section 483(a)(3) of the Higher Education Act of
5 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the
6 end the following:

7 “(I) ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONAL IDENTI-
8 FICATION NUMBER.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
10 shall assign a personal identification num-
11 ber under subparagraph (G) to an appli-
12 cant who provides a valid social security
13 number or taxpayer identifying number (as
14 described in section 6109 of the Internal
15 Revenue Code of 1986) verifying the iden-
16 tity of such applicant.

17 “(ii) VERIFICATION OF TAXPAYER
18 IDENTIFYING NUMBER.—The Secretary of
19 Education, in cooperation with the Sec-
20 retary of the Treasury, shall verify any
21 taxpayer identifying number provided by
22 an applicant under clause (i) before assign-
23 ing a personal identification number to
24 such applicant.

25 “(iii) VERIFICATION OF SSN.—The
26 Secretary of Education, in cooperation

1 with the Commissioner of the Social Secu-
 2 rity Administration, shall verify any social
 3 security number provided by an applicant
 4 under clause (i) before assigning a per-
 5 sonal identification number to such appli-
 6 cant.”.

7 **SEC. 3. ACCESS TO TAXPAYER IDENTITY INFORMATION.**

8 Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
 9 is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (l), by adding at the end the
 11 following:

12 “(23) DISCLOSURE OF TAXPAYER IDENTITY IN-
 13 FORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF ASSIGNING A PER-
 14 SONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER UNDER THE HIGH-
 15 ER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may,
 17 upon written request from the Secretary of
 18 Education, disclose to officers and employees of
 19 the Department of Education the taxpayer
 20 identity information of a taxpayer who has re-
 21 quested a personal identification number under
 22 section 483(a)(3)(I) of the Higher Education
 23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)(I)).

24 “(B) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED
 25 INFORMATION.—Taxpayer identity information

1 disclosed under subparagraph (A) may be used
2 by officers and employees of the Department of
3 Education only for the purposes of, and to the
4 extent necessary in, assigning a personal identi-
5 fication number to an applicant under section
6 483(a)(3)(I) of the Higher Education Act of
7 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)(I)).”; and
8 (2) in subsection (p)(4), by striking “or (22)”
9 each place it appears and inserting “(22), or (23)”.

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