

S 3611

Faster Access to Federal Student Aid Act of 2018

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Taxation

Introduced: Nov 13, 2018

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Dec 20, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3611>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]

Party: Republican • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		Nov 13, 2018
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Nov 13, 2018
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Nov 13, 2018
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Dec 6, 2018
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Dec 6, 2018
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Dec 11, 2018
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Dec 11, 2018
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Dec 11, 2018
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Dec 11, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 20, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Taxation

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 7386	Identical bill	Dec 20, 2018: 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.

Faster Access to Federal Student Aid Act of 2018

This bill requires the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to disclose certain tax return information to the Department of Education (ED) for the purpose of administering financial aid and loan programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965. (Under current law, students must obtain their own tax return information from the IRS and submit it to ED.)

Upon receiving a request from ED, the IRS must disclose specified tax return information to ED for the purposes of

- establishing, renewing, administering, and conducting analyses and forecasts for estimating costs related to income-contingent or income-based repayment programs;
- the discharge of loans based on a total and permanent disability;
- determining the eligibility for, and the amount of, federal student financial aid; and
- conducting analyses and forecasts for estimating costs related to federal student financial aid programs.

ED may only use the disclosed information for the purposes above and for mitigating risks related to the programs.

Mitigating risks includes activities related to analyzing or estimating costs, conducting oversight, developing statistics, and reducing improper payments. It does not include conducting criminal investigations or prosecutions.

With the consent of the taxpayer, ED may disclose the return information to certain institutions of higher education, state higher education agencies, and scholarship organizations solely for the use in financial aid programs.

The bill also specifies notification and reporting requirements related to the disclosures and the implementation of this bill.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 20, 2018:** Senate Committee on Finance discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Held at the desk.
- **Nov 13, 2018:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 13, 2018:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.