

S 1346

Simplifying Financial Aid for Students Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: May 7, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (May 7, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1346>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		May 7, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 7, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 7, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 7, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2486	Related bill	Jul 23, 2020: Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendments to Senate amendment.
116 HR 1075	Related bill	Jan 30, 2020: ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mr. Trone asked unanimous consent that he may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 1075, a bill originally introduced by Representative Elijah Cummings, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII. Agreed to without objection.
116 S 1364	Related bill	May 8, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 S 416	Related bill	Feb 7, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1137; text: CR S1137-1138)
116 HR 640	Related bill	Jan 17, 2019: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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.

Simplifying Financial Aid for Students Act of 2019

This bill revises the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process and modifies federal student aid eligibility for certain students.

Among other things, the bill revises FAFSA to

- remove certain questions such as those regarding a student's criminal history, Selective Service registration, and combat pay information;
- make it available to complete on a mobile device;
- consolidate questions regarding a student's homeless status;
- allow a student to automatically populate such form using data available from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS);
- provide forms in the most common languages spoken at home in the United States; and
- allow a student to complete FAFSA as an independent student under special circumstances.

The bill also modifies the student eligibility criteria for federal student financial aid to

- deem a student eligible for a determination of a zero expected family contribution under certain circumstances, such as when a dependent student's parent participated in a means-tested benefits program (e.g., the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Medicaid);
- revise the simplified needs-analysis formula;
- remove drug conviction and Selective Service registration provisions; and
- make Dreamer students (i.e., students who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status) eligible for federal financial aid.

Additionally, the IRS must disclose certain tax return information to the Department of Education (ED) for the purpose of administering financial aid and loan programs.

The bill also authorizes ED to carry out an early federal Pell Grant commitment program.

Actions Timeline

- **May 7, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 7, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.