

One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,
the third day of January, two thousand and twenty-four*

An Act

To establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FAFSA Deadline Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLIER APPLICATION PROCESSING CYCLE.

Section 483(d)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(d)(4)) is amended by striking "not later than January 1 of the applicant's planned year of enrollment, to the maximum extent practicable, on or around October 1 prior to the applicant's planned year of enrollment" and inserting "not later than October 1 prior to the applicant's planned year of enrollment".

SEC. 3. CERTIFICATION AND TESTIMONY REQUIREMENTS.

Section 483(d)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(d)(4)) is further amended—

(1) by striking "The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) CERTIFICATION AND TESTIMONY REQUIREMENTS.—

The Secretary shall, with respect to each application processing cycle, prior to the initiation of such processing cycle—

"(i) on a date that is not later than September 1—

"(I) certify to the authorizing committees that the Department will meet the October 1 deadline specified in subparagraph (A) for such processing cycle; or

"(II) certify to such committees that the Department will not meet such deadline; and

"(ii) in the case of a certification described in clause (i)(II), on a date that is not later than September 30, testify before the authorizing committees on—

"(I) the anticipated failure to meet such deadline; and

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“(II) the financial impact such failure will have on students and families.”.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*