[~115H3554]

	(Original Signature of Member)	••
116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION	H. R	

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the automatic recertification of income for income-driven repayment plans, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms.	Bonamici introduced	the	following	bill;	which	was	referred	to	the
	Committee on								

## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the automatic recertification of income for incomedriven repayment plans, 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 "Streamlining Income-
- 5 driven, Manageable Payments on Loans for Education
- 6 Act" or the "SIMPLE Act".

1	SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC INCOME MONITORING PROCEDURES
2	AFTER A TOTAL AND PERMANENT DIS-
3	ABILITY DISCHARGE.
4	Section 437(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
5	(20 U.S.C. 1087(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
6	following:
7	"(3) Automatic income monitoring.—
8	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
9	after the date of enactment of the Streamlining
10	Income-driven, Manageable Payments on Loans
11	for Education Act, the Secretary shall, with re-
12	spect to each borrower and each income-moni-
13	toring period described in subparagraph (B)—
14	"(i) offer an opportunity for such bor-
15	rower to opt out of clause (ii) and prevent
16	the Secretary from obtaining information
17	under such clause;
18	"(ii) submit a written request to the
19	Secretary of the Treasury under section
20	6103(l)(13) of the Internal Revenue Code
21	of 1986 for disclosure of information relat-
22	ing to income, tax filing status, and num-
23	ber of dependents with respect to such bor-
24	rower (and such borrower's spouse, if ap-
25	plicable) and such income-monitoring pe-
26	riod, for the purpose of determining the

1	borrower's continued eligibility for the loan
2	discharge described in subparagraph (B)
3	for such year; and
4	"(iii) provide the borrower with an op-
5	portunity to update the information ob-
6	tained under clause (ii) before the deter-
7	mination of the borrower's continued eligi-
8	bility for such loan discharge for such
9	year.
10	"(B) Applicability.—Subparagraph (A)
11	shall apply—
12	"(i) to each borrower who is a bor-
13	rower of a covered loan (defined in section
14	455(d)(8)) that is discharged under this
15	subsection or section $464(c)(1)(F)$ due to
16	the permanent and total disability of the
17	borrower; and
18	"(ii) during the income-monitoring pe-
19	riod under this subsection, defined in this
20	paragraph as the period—
21	"(I) beginning on the date on
22	which such loan is so discharged; and
23	"(II) during which the Secretary
24	determines whether a reinstatement of
25	the obligation of, and resumption of

1	collection on, such loan may be nec-
2	essary.
3	"(C) Borrower with no earned in-
4	COME.—In the case of a borrower whose infor-
5	mation received under subparagraph (A) indi-
6	cates that the borrower has no earned income
7	for any year of such income-monitoring period,
8	such borrower shall be treated as not having
9	earned income in excess of the poverty line for
10	such year.".
11	SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION AND AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT
12	PROCEDURES FOR BORROWERS WHO ARE
13	DELINQUENT ON LOANS AND FOR BOR-
14	ROWERS WHO REHABILITATED DEFAULTED
15	LOANS.
16	(a) Amendments.—
17	(1) Notification and automatic enroll-
18	MENT PROCEDURES.—Section 455(d) of the Higher
19	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(d)) is
20	amended by adding at the end the following:
21	"(6) Notification and automatic enroll-
22	MENT PROCEDURES FOR BORROWERS WHO ARE DE-
23	LINQUENT ON LOANS.—
24	"(A) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INCOME IN-
	(II) HOIMOMIT TO OBTAIN INCOME IN

1	is at least 60 days delinquent on a covered loan,
2	the Secretary shall submit a written request to
3	the Secretary of the Treasury under section
4	6103(l)(13) of the Internal Revenue Code of
5	1986 for disclosure of information relating to
6	income, tax filing status, and number of de-
7	pendents of such borrower (and such borrower's
8	spouse, if applicable).
9	"(B) Borrower notification.—With re-
10	spect to each borrower of a covered loan who is
11	at least 60 days delinquent on such loan and
12	who has not been subject to the procedures
13	under this paragraph for such loan in the pre-
14	ceding 120 days, the Secretary shall, as soon as
15	practicable after such 60-day delinquency, pro-
16	vide to the borrower the following:
17	"(i) Notification that the borrower is
18	at least 60 days delinquent on at least 1
19	covered loan, and a description of all delin-
20	quent covered loans, nondelinquent covered
21	loans, and noncovered loans of the bor-
22	rower.
23	"(ii) A brief description of the repay-
24	ment plans for which the borrower is eligi-
25	ble and the covered loans and noncovered

1	loans of the borrower that may be eligible
2	for such plans, based on information avail-
3	able to the Secretary.
4	"(iii) Clear and simple instructions on
5	how to select the repayment plans.
6	"(iv) The amount of monthly pay-
7	ments for the covered and noncovered
8	loans under the repayment plans for which
9	the borrower is eligible, based on informa-
10	tion available to the Secretary, including, if
11	the income information of the borrower is
12	available to the Secretary under subpara-
13	graph (A)—
14	"(I) the amount of the monthly
15	payment under each income-driven re-
16	payment plan for which the borrower
17	is eligible for the borrower's covered
18	and noncovered loans, based on such
19	income information; and
20	"(II) the income, tax filing sta-
21	tus, number of dependents, and tax
22	year information on which each
23	monthly payment is based.

1	"(v) An explanation that in the case
2	of a borrower for whom adjusted gross in-
3	come is unavailable—
4	"(I) if the borrower selects to
5	repay the covered loans of such bor-
6	rower pursuant to an income-driven
7	repayment plan that defines discre-
8	tionary income in such a manner that
9	an individual not required under sec-
10	tion 6012(a)(1) of the Internal Rev-
11	enue Code of 1986 to file a return
12	with respect to income taxes imposed
13	by subtitle A of such Code may have
14	a calculated monthly payment greater
15	than \$0, the borrower will be required
16	to provide the Secretary with other
17	documentation of income satisfactory
18	to the Secretary, which documentation
19	the Secretary may use to determine
20	an appropriate repayment schedule;
21	and
22	"(II) if the borrower selects to
23	repay such loans pursuant to an in-
24	come-driven repayment plan that is
25	not described in subclause (I), the

1	borrower will not be required to pro-
2	vide the Secretary with such other
3	documentation of income, and the bor-
4	rower will have a calculated monthly
5	payment of \$0.
6	"(vi) An explanation that the Sec-
7	retary shall take the actions under sub-
8	paragraph (C) with respect to such bor-
9	rower, if—
10	"(I) the borrower is 120 days de-
11	linquent on one or more covered loans
12	and has not selected a new repayment
13	plan for the covered loans of the bor-
14	rower; and
15	"(II) in the case of such a bor-
16	rower whose repayment plan for the
17	covered loans of the borrower is not
18	an income-driven repayment plan, the
19	monthly payments under such repay-
20	ment plan are higher than such
21	monthly payments would be under an
22	income-driven repayment plan for
23	such loans.

1	"(vii) Instructions on updating the in-
2	formation of the borrower obtained under
3	subparagraph (A).
4	"(C) Secretary's initial selection of
5	PLAN.—With respect to each borrower de-
6	scribed in subparagraph (B) who has a repay-
7	ment plan for the covered loans of the borrower
8	that meets the requirements of clause (vi)(II) of
9	subparagraph (B) and has not selected a new
10	repayment plan for such loans in accordance
11	with the notice received under such subpara-
12	graph, and who is at least 120 days delinquent
13	on such a loan, the Secretary shall, as soon as
14	practicable—
15	"(i) in a case in which any of the bor-
16	rower's covered loans are eligible for an in-
17	come-driven repayment plan—
18	"(I)(aa) provide the borrower
19	with the income-driven repayment
20	plan that requires the lowest monthly
21	payment amount for each covered loan
22	of the borrower, compared to any
23	other such plan for which the bor-
24	rower is eligible; or

1	"(bb) if more than one income-
2	driven repayment plan would offer the
3	borrower the same lowest monthly
4	payment amount, provide the bor-
5	rower with the income-driven repay-
6	ment plan that has the most favorable
7	terms for the borrower;
8	$``(\Pi)$ if the plan selected under
9	subclause (I) is not the income-driven
10	repayment plan that would have the
11	lowest monthly payment amount if the
12	borrower were eligible for such plan
13	for the borrower's covered loans and
14	noncovered loans, notify the borrower
15	of the actions, if any, the borrower
16	may take to become eligible for such
17	income-driven repayment plan; and
18	"(III) authorize the borrower to
19	change the Secretary's selection of a
20	plan under this clause to any plan de-
21	scribed in paragraph (1) for which the
22	borrower is eligible; and
23	"(ii) in a case in which none of the
24	borrower's covered loans are eligible for an
25	income-driven repayment plan, notify the

1	borrower of the actions, if any, the bor-
2	rower may take for such loans to become
3	eligible for such a plan.
4	"(D) Secretary's additional selec-
5	TION OF PLAN.—
6	"(i) In general.—With respect to
7	each borrower of a covered loan who se-
8	lects a new repayment plan in accordance
9	with the notice received under subpara-
10	graph (B) and who continues to be delin-
11	quent on such loan for a period described
12	in clause (ii), the Secretary shall, as soon
13	as practicable after such period, carry out
14	the procedures described in clauses (i) and
15	(ii) of subparagraph (C) for the covered
16	loans of the borrower, if such procedures
17	would result in lower monthly repayment
18	amounts on such loan.
19	"(ii) Description of Period.—The
20	duration of the period described in clause
21	(i) shall be the amount of time that the
22	Secretary determines is sufficient to indi-
23	cate that the borrower may benefit from
24	repaying such loan under a new repayment

1	plan, but in no case shall such period be
2	less than 60 days.
3	"(E) OPT-OUT.—A borrower of a covered
4	loan shall have the right to opt out of the pro-
5	cedures under this paragraph.
6	"(F) Procedures.—The Secretary shall
7	establish procedures as are necessary to effec-
8	tively implement this paragraph.
9	"(7) Notification and automatic enroll-
10	MENT PROCEDURES FOR BORROWERS WHO ARE RE-
11	HABILITATING DEFAULTED LOANS.—
12	"(A) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INCOME IN-
13	FORMATION.—In the case of any borrower who
14	is rehabilitating a covered loan pursuant to sec-
15	tion 428F(a), the Secretary may submit a writ-
16	ten request to the Secretary of the Treasury
17	under section 6103(l)(13) of the Internal Rev-
18	enue Code of 1986 for disclosure of information
19	relating to income, tax filing status, and num-
20	ber of dependents of such borrower (and such
21	borrower's spouse, if applicable).
22	"(B) Borrower notification.—Not
23	later than 30 days after a borrower makes the
24	6th payment required for the loan rehabilitation
25	described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary

1	shall notify the borrower of the process under
2	subparagraph (C) with respect to such loan.
3	"(C) Secretary's selection of plan.—
4	With respect to each borrower who has made
5	the 9th payment required for the loan rehabili-
6	tation described in subparagraph (A), the Sec-
7	retary shall, as soon as practicable after such
8	payment—
9	"(i) in a case in which any of the bor-
10	rower's covered loans, without regard to
11	whether the loan has been so rehabilitated,
12	is eligible for an income-driven repayment
13	plan—
14	"(I)(aa) provide the borrower
15	with the income-driven repayment
16	plan that requires the lowest monthly
17	payment amount for each covered loan
18	of the borrower, compared to any
19	other such plan for which the bor-
20	rower is eligible; or
21	"(bb) if more than one income-
22	driven repayment plan would offer the
23	borrower the same lowest monthly
24	payment amount, provide the bor-
25	rower with the income-driven repay-

1	ment plan that has the most favorable
2	terms for the borrower; and
3	"(II) if the plan selected under
4	subclause (I) is not the income-driven
5	repayment plan that would have the
6	lowest monthly payment amount if the
7	borrower were eligible for such plan
8	for the borrower's covered loans and
9	noncovered loans, notify the borrower
10	of the actions, if any, the borrower
11	may take to become eligible for such
12	income-driven repayment plan; and
13	"(ii) in a case in which none of the
14	borrower's covered loans are eligible for an
15	income-driven repayment plan, notify the
16	borrower of the actions, if any, the bor-
17	rower may take for such a loan to become
18	eligible for such a plan.
19	"(D) OPT-OUT.—A borrower of a covered
20	loan shall have the right to opt out of the pro-
21	cedures under this paragraph.
22	"(E) Procedures.—The Secretary shall
23	establish procedures as are necessary to effec-
24	tively implement this paragraph.".

1	(2) Definitions.—Section 455(d) of the High-
2	er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(d)), as
3	amended by paragraph (1), is further amended by
4	adding at the end the following:
5	"(8) Definitions.—In this subsection:
6	"(A) COVERED LOAN.—The term 'covered
7	loan' means—
8	"(i) a loan made under this part;
9	"(ii) a loan purchased under section
10	459A; or
11	"(iii) a loan that has been assigned to
12	the Secretary under section $428(c)(8)$ or
13	part E.
14	"(B) Income-driven repayment
15	PLAN.—The term 'income-driven repayment
16	plan' means a plan described in subparagraph
17	(D) or (E) of paragraph (1).
18	"(C) Noncovered loan.—The term
19	'noncovered loan' means a loan made, insured,
20	or guaranteed under this title that is not a cov-
21	ered loan.".
22	(3) Changing Plans.—Section 493C(b)(8) of
23	the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
24	1098e(b)(8)) is amended to read as follows:

1	"(8) a borrower who is repaying a loan made
2	insured, or guaranteed under part B or D pursuant
3	to income-based repayment may elect, at any time
4	to terminate repayment pursuant to income-based
5	repayment and repay such loan under any repay-
6	ment plan for which the loan is eligible in accord-
7	ance with the requirements of part B or part D, re-
8	spectively; and".
9	(b) Effective Date; Application.—
10	(1) Automatic enrollment.—The amend-
11	ments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection
12	(a) shall—
13	(A) take effect as soon as the Secretary of
14	Education determines practicable, but not later
15	than 2 years after the date of enactment of this
16	Act; and
17	(B) apply to all borrowers of covered loans
18	(as defined in section 455(d)(8) of the Higher
19	Education Act of 1965, as added by subsection
20	(a)).
21	(2) Changing plans.—The amendment made
22	by subsection (a)(3) shall take effect on the date of
23	enactment of this Act

## SEC. 4. AUTOMATIC RECERTIFICATION OF INCOME. 2 (a) Income Contingent Repayment.—Section 3 455(e) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 4 1087e(e)) is amended— 5 (1) in paragraph (3)— 6 (A) by striking "does not reasonably reflect the borrower's current income" and insert-7 8 ing "whose income has decreased relative to the 9 adjusted gross income available to the Secretary"; and 10 (B) by inserting ", consistent with the pro-11 12 cedures established under paragraph 13 (8)(B)(iv)" before the period at the end; and 14 (2) by adding at the end the following: "(8) Automatic recentification.— 15 16 "(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the 17 term 'covered loan' has the meaning given the 18 term in subsection (d)(8). 19 "(B) IN GENERAL.—Beginning as soon as 20 the Secretary determines practicable, but not 21 later than 2 years after the date of enactment 22 of the Streamlining Income-driven, Manageable 23 Payments on Loans for Education Act, the Sec-24 retary shall, with respect to any borrower de-

scribed in subparagraph (C)—

25

1	"(i) offer an opportunity for such bor-
2	rower to opt out of clause (ii) and prevent
3	the Secretary from obtaining information
4	under such clause;
5	"(ii) submit a written request to the
6	Secretary of the Treasury under section
7	6103(l)(13) of the Internal Revenue Code
8	of 1986 for disclosure of information relat-
9	ing to income, tax filing status, and num-
10	ber of dependents of such borrower (and
11	such borrower's spouse, if applicable) for
12	purposes of determining the repayment ob-
13	ligation of the borrower for such year; and
14	"(iii) provide the borrower with an op-
15	portunity to update the information ob-
16	tained under clause (ii) before the deter-
17	mination of the annual repayment obliga-
18	tion of the borrower.
19	"(C) Applicability.—Subparagraph (B)
20	shall apply to each borrower of a covered loan
21	who—
22	"(i) selects, or for whom the Secretary
23	selects under subparagraph (C) or (D) of
24	paragraph (6) or paragraph (7)(C) of sub-

1	section (d), or section 428(m)(1), an in-
2	come contingent repayment plan; or
3	"(ii) recertifies income and family size
4	under such plan.
5	"(D) Borrower for whom adjusted
6	GROSS INCOME IS UNAVAILABLE.—In the case
7	of a borrower for whom information is unavail-
8	able under subparagraph (B)—
9	"(i) if the borrower has selected to
10	repay the covered loans of such borrower
11	pursuant to an income contingent repay-
12	ment plan that defines discretionary in-
13	come in such a manner that an individual
14	not required under section 6012(a)(1) of
15	the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to file
16	a return with respect to income taxes im-
17	posed by subtitle A of such Code may have
18	a calculated monthly payment greater than
19	\$0, the borrower will be required to pro-
20	vide the Secretary with other documenta-
21	tion of income satisfactory to the Sec-
22	retary, which documentation the Secretary
23	may use to determine an appropriate re-
24	payment schedule: or

1	"(ii) if the borrower has selected to
2	repay such loans pursuant to an income
3	contingent repayment that is not described
4	in clause (i), the borrower will not be re-
5	quired to provide the Secretary with such
6	other documentation of income, and the
7	borrower will have a calculated monthly
8	payment of \$0.
9	"(E) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
10	retary's actions under this paragraph shall be
11	consistent with the requirements of paragraphs
12	(1) through (7), except as otherwise provided in
13	this paragraph.".
14	(b) Income-Based Repayment.—Section 493C(c)
15	of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1098e(c))
16	is amended—
17	(1) by striking "The Secretary shall establish"
18	and inserting the following:
19	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
20	lish'';
21	(2) by striking "The Secretary shall consider"
22	and inserting the following:
23	"(2) Procedures for eligibility.—The Sec-
24	retary shall—
25	"(A) consider"; and

1	(3) by striking " $428C(b)(1)(E)$ ." and inserting
2	the following: " $428C(b)(1)(E)$ ; and
3	"(B) beginning as soon as the Secretary
4	determines practicable, carry out, with respect
5	to borrowers of any covered loan (as defined in
6	section 455(d)(8)), procedures for income-based
7	repayment plans that are equivalent to the pro-
8	cedures carried out under section 455(e)(8)
9	with respect to income contingent repayment
10	plans.".
11	SEC. 5. DISCLOSURE OF TAX RETURN INFORMATION TO
12	CARRY OUT CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION
13	LOAN PROGRAMS.
14	(a) In General.—Paragraph (13) of section 6103(l)
15	of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read
16	as follows:
17	"(13) Disclosure of returns and return
18	INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF STUDENT LOAN
19	ADMINISTRATION.—
20	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,
21	subject to such requirements and conditions as
22	the Secretary may prescribe, upon written re-
23	quest from the Secretary of Education under
24	section 437(a), section 455(d), or section

1	disclose to officers and employees of the De-
2	partment of Education returns and return in-
3	formation with respect to a taxpayer described
4	in such section.
5	"(B) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED
6	Information.—Return information disclosed
7	under subparagraph (A) may be used by offi-
8	cers and employees of the Department of Edu-
9	cation only for the purposes of, and to the ex-
10	tent necessary for purposes of—
11	"(i) carrying out income monitoring
12	under section 437(a) of the Higher Edu-
13	cation Act of 1965,
14	"(ii) establishing the appropriate re-
15	payment amount under an applicable in-
16	come-driven repayment plan (as defined in
17	section 455(d)(8) of such Act) in connec-
18	tion with an applicable student loan for—
19	"(I) borrowers who have selected
20	such a plan, and
21	"(II) in the case of any recertifi-
22	cation under section $455(e)(8)$ or
23	493C(e)(2)(B) of the Higher Edu-
24	cation Act of 1965, borrowers who are
25	enrolled in such a plan,

1	"(iii) in the case of borrowers who are
2	at least 60 days delinquent on an applica-
3	ble student loan—
4	"(I) providing notice of eligibility
5	for an income-driven repayment plan
6	(as so defined) pursuant to section
7	455(d)(6)(B) of the Higher Education
8	Act of 1965, and
9	"(II) automatic enrollment in
10	such an income-driven repayment plan
11	after such borrowers are at least 120
12	days delinquent on such a loan pursu-
13	ant to section 455(d)(6)(C) of such
14	Act, and
15	"(iv) in the case of borrowers who are
16	rehabilitating defaulted loans, providing
17	notice of eligibility for an income-driven re-
18	payment plan (as so defined) and auto-
19	matic enrollment in such a plan pursuant
20	to section 455(d)(7) of the Higher Edu-
21	cation Act of 1965.
22	"(C) DISCLOSURE TO CERTAIN CONTRAC-
23	TORS.—Officers and employees of the Depart-
24	ment of Education may disclose the information
25	described in subparagraph (A) to persons

1	awarded contracts by the Secretary of Edu-
2	cation under section 456 of the Higher Edu-
3	cation Act of 1965 to the extent necessary for
4	the purposes described in subparagraph (B).
5	"(D) Spousal information for mar-
6	RIED INDIVIDUALS FILING SEPARATE RE-
7	TURNS.—For purposes of this paragraph, in the
8	case of a married individual filing a separate re-
9	turn, the term 'taxpayer' includes the spouse of
10	that individual if the Secretary of Education re-
11	quests information from the spouse of that indi-
12	vidual and the individual and the spouse have
13	consented in writing.".
14	(b) Conforming Amendments.—
15	(1) Section 6103(a)(3) of such Code is amended
16	by inserting "(13)," after "(12),".
17	(2) Section 6103(p)(4) of such Code is amend-
18	ed by inserting "(13)," after "(l)(10)," each place it
19	occurs.
20	(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
21	this section shall apply to disclosures made after the date
22	of enactment of this Act.