

S 2190

REST Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Oct 21, 2015

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. (Oct 21, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2190>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 21, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5700	Related bill	Sep 19, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.
114 S 1928	Related bill	Apr 27, 2016: Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

Rural Educator Support and Training Act or the REST Act

This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 to: (1) establish several new grant programs for students training to become educators in rural schools, and (2) enhance federal student loan forgiveness for rural educators.

The Department of Education (ED) shall award undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships to students who are studying to become educators in rural schools. To be eligible, a recipient must maintain acceptable academic standing and shall agree to fulfill a service obligation of three or more years, depending on the number of years for which funding is provided.

ED may also award grants to eligible educational agencies for the purpose of: (1) reimbursing eligible rural educators for out-of-pocket costs associated with obtaining national board certification, and (2) increasing annual compensation for eligible rural educators who have become certified.

Rural educators shall also be eligible for additional student loan forgiveness. Specifically, a teacher who is employed for five consecutive years in a rural school shall be eligible for up to \$17,500 in federal student loan forgiveness. (Under current law, a highly qualified teacher who is employed for five consecutive years in a high-poverty school is eligible for up to \$5,000 in federal student loan forgiveness; such a teacher who teaches mathematics, science, or special education is eligible for up to \$17,500.)

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 21, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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