

S 312

SKILLS Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Jan 29, 2015

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S656) (Jan 29, 2015)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/312

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]

Party: Democratic • State: RI • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Jan 29, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jan 29, 2015
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 2, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 29, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries Act or the SKILLS Act**

Amends part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to require the inclusion of effective school library programs in school improvement programs.

Defines an "effective school library program" as one that: (1) is staffed by a state sanctioned school librarian; (2) has up-to-date materials and technology, including broadband; (3) includes regular collaboration between teachers and school librarians concerning school reform efforts; and (4) supports the development of digital literacy skills.

Replaces the existing program under subpart 4 (Improving Literacy Through School Libraries) of part B of title I of the ESEA with a new program (Improving Literacy and College and Career Readiness Through Effective School Library Programs) awarding competitive three-year grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to develop and enhance effective school library programs. Makes LEAs eligible for such grants only if at least 20% of their students are impoverished.

Amends part A (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund) of title II of the ESEA to rename part A the Teacher, School Librarian, and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund. Requires states and LEAs to use funds under the program to train school librarians, and recruit and retain highly effective school librarians.

## **Actions Timeline**

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