

## S 604

### Veteran Education Empowerment Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Feb 26, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Feb 26, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/604>

## Sponsor

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

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

## Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Feb 26, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 13, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 26, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Education

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1399	Related bill	Nov 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

## **Veteran Education Empowerment Act**

Amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to award up to 30 four-year grants to institutions of higher education (IHEs) or consortia of IHEs to establish, maintain, and improve Veteran Student Centers.

Permits a grantee to use a portion of the grant to provide veteran students with supportive instruction services.

Requires a grantee to be an IHE or consortium that: (1) enrolls in undergraduate or graduate courses a significant number or percentage of veterans or members of the Armed Forces, and (2) presents a sustainability plan demonstrating that its Veteran Student Center will be maintained and will continue to operate after the grant ends.

Defines a "Veteran Student Center" as a dedicated space on a campus that provides students who are veterans or members of the Armed Forces with: (1) a lounge or meeting space for themselves, their spouses or partners, and veterans in the community; (2) a centralized office for veteran services that is staffed by trained employees and volunteers and serves as a single point of contact to coordinate veterans support services; and (3) comprehensive academic and tutoring services to veterans.

Requires that office to provide such students with assistance in:

- transitioning from the military to student life,
- transitioning from the military to the civilian workforce,
- networking with other veteran students and veterans in the community,
- understanding and obtaining benefits provided by the IHE and federal and state government for which they may be eligible,
- understanding how to succeed in the IHE, and
- understanding their disability-related rights and protections under specified federal laws.

Requires the Secretary to develop and implement a website for veteran student services at IHEs, which details best practices for serving veteran students at IHEs.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Feb 26, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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