

## S 185

### Head Start Improvement Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Jan 23, 2017

**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. (Jan 23, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/185>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 23, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 23, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Education

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 1921	Identical bill	Apr 5, 2017: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## **Head Start Improvement Act of 2017**

This bill amends the Head Start Act to replace the existing Head Start program with block grants to states and Indian tribes for prekindergarten (pre-K) education.

Instead of providing direct financial assistance to Head Start agencies, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall allot block grant funds for pre-K education among eligible states and Indian tribes in accordance with their relative proportions of children, age five and younger, from low-income households. Grant recipients shall use the grant funds to: (1) award subgrants to eligible entities that provide pre-K education programs; (2) administer such programs; and (3) provide technical assistance, oversight, monitoring, research, and training.

Under current law, HHS is authorized to designate, monitor, and establish standards for Head Start agencies. The bill instead shifts pre-K program oversight and control to states and Indian tribes, which shall have full flexibility to use grant funds to finance the pre-K programs of their choice. In addition, grant recipients may use grant funds to establish portable voucher systems that allow costs to be paid for attendance at private pre-K education programs.

Under current law, federal financial assistance for a Head Start program is generally limited to 80% of total program costs. The bill maintains this limitation by requiring grant recipients to provide matching funds equal to 20% of the grant amount.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 23, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.