

S 235

CHOICE Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Jan 24, 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 24, 2017)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/235

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]

Party: Republican • State: SC • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]	R · TN		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]	R · KY		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 30, 2017
Sen. Strange, Luther [R-AL]	R · AL		Jun 12, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 24, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 691	Identical bill	Feb 17, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

## **Creating Hope and Opportunity for Individuals and Communities through Education Act or the CHOICE Act**

This bill amends the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act to include among the eligibility criteria for opportunity scholarships, a requirement that a student in Washington, DC is enrolled, or will be enrolled for the next school year, in a public or private elementary or secondary school. (Opportunity scholarships are provided to low-income DC students to enable them to attend a participating private school of their choice.)

The bill also amends the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to allow states that have established a program which allows the parents of disabled children to use public or private funds for assistance with the cost of their children attending a private school, to supplement those funds with their allocation of federal special education funds.

The bill authorizes grants to support the design and initial implementation of state programs that allow the parents of a disabled child to make a choice of the appropriate public or private school for their child.

The Department of Defense (DOD) must carry out a five-year pilot program to award scholarships to enable military dependent students who live on military installations to attend the public or private elementary or secondary schools their parents choose. DOD must select at least five military installations to participate in the program and choose those where military students would benefit from expanded education options.

The Department of Education must return to the Treasury specified amounts made available for salaries and expenses.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 24, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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