

S 457

REST Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Feb 27, 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. (Feb 27, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/457>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 27, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Feb 27, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 27, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Rural Educator Support and Training Act or the REST Act

This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Elementary and Secondary Education 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

- **Feb 27, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 27, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.