

S 1161

NEST Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Apr 11, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (Apr 11, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1161>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Apr 11, 2019
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Aug 1, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 11, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 1157	Related bill	Apr 11, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Native Educator Support and Training Act or the NEST Act

This bill establishes scholarships, loan forgiveness plans, and training programs for students and educators who commit to teaching in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools or other specified schools serving Indian students.

The bill establishes three scholarship programs: (1) the Indian Student Educator Scholarship Program for students seeking degrees, (2) the Indian Educator Scholarship Program for Indian students seeking degrees, and (3) the Indian Educator Graduate Fellowship Program for Indian students seeking graduate degrees. Recipients of the scholarships must commit to working for a BIE school, a tribal early childhood education program, or other specified schools or agencies for the greater of three years or the number of school years that the scholarship funded.

The bill also establishes loan forgiveness programs for educators and Indians who have taught for at least five consecutive years at BIE schools or local educational agencies with high percentages of Indian students.

The bill extends the federal Perkins Loan Cancellation Program to educators teaching in BIE schools or in Native American language immersion programs.

The bill authorizes professional development grants for Native-serving elementary and secondary schools. It also establishes the Native American Language Teacher Training Program to provide grants for institutions of higher education to develop training programs for Native American immersion and language teachers.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 11, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 11, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.