

S 157

Student Empowerment Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Taxation

Introduced: Jan 16, 2019

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Jan 16, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/157>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]

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

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]	R · WI		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Sasse, Ben [R-NE]	R · NE		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Jan 16, 2019
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Mar 6, 2019
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Jul 23, 2019
Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]	R · SC		Jul 25, 2019
Sen. Loeffler, Kelly [R-GA]	R · GA		Jul 28, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 16, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Taxation

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4775	Related bill	Oct 1, 2020: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 564.
116 S 4537	Related bill	Sep 8, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
116 HR 621	Identical bill	Jan 16, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Summary (as of Jan 16, 2019)

Student Empowerment Act

This bill allows tax-exempt distributions from qualified tuition programs (known as 529 plans) to be used for additional educational expenses in connection with enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary school.

(Under current law, distributions in connection with an elementary or secondary school are limited to tuition for a public, private, or religious school.) The bill allows the distributions to be used for additional educational expenses, including

- curriculum and curricular materials,
- books or other instructional materials,
- online educational materials,
- tutoring or educational classes outside the home,
- testing fees,
- fees for dual enrollment in an institution of higher education, and
- educational therapies for students with disabilities.

Distributions may also be used for tuition and the purposes above in connection with a homeschool (whether treated as a homeschool or a private school under state law).

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 16, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 16, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.