S 4972

Rural STEM Education Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications
Introduced: Dec 8, 2020
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Dec 8, 2020)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4972

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]
Party: Republican • **State:** MS • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Dec 8, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 8, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 4979	Related bill	**Sep 17, 2020:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Dec 8, 2020)

Rural STEM Education Act

This bill directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support research regarding STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science) education in rural schools.

The NSF must award grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations for (1) research and development to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality STEM teaching in rural schools, (2) research and development of programming to identify the barriers rural students face in accessing high-quality STEM education, (3) development of innovative solutions to improve the participation and advancement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM studies, and (4) research on online STEM education courses for rural communities.

The NSF may establish a pilot program of regional cohorts in rural areas to provide peer support, mentoring, and hands-on research experiences for rural STEM educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12 in order to build an ecosystem of cooperation among educators, researchers, academia, and local industry.

The NSF shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy agrees to evaluate aspects of STEM education and workforce development in rural areas.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology must award prizes to stimulate research and development of creative technologies in order to deploy affordable and reliable broadband connectivity to unserved rural communities.

The Office of Science and Technology Policy must establish a broadband research and development working group to address national research challenges and opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption across the United States.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 8, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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