

S 2224

STEM Opportunities Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Jun 24, 2021

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. (Jun 24, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2224>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]

Party: Democratic • State: HI • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jun 24, 2021
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 1, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 24, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 204	Identical bill	May 19, 2021: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Jun 24, 2021)

STEM Opportunities Act

This bill provides for guidance, data collection, and grants for groups historically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at institutions of higher education (IHEs) and at federal science agencies.

Specifically, the bill requires the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to provide specified guidance related to such groups to federal science agencies and IHEs.

Each federal science agency must collect comprehensive demographic data on recipients of merit-reviewed research and development grants given to IHEs and federal laboratories supported by that agency.

Each agency must also implement recommendations from the OSTP report titled *Reducing the Impact of Bias in the STEM Workforce*. In addition, each agency must carry out a pilot program and implement evidence-based policies and practices to minimize the effect of implicit bias in the grant review process.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) must carry out and publish a survey to collect data on the demographics of STEM faculty, by broad fields of STEM, at different types of IHEs.

The NSF must also carry out a variety of grant programs, including grants for increasing (1) the recruitment, retention, and advancement of individuals from underrepresented minority groups in STEM careers; (2) the recruitment and retention of minority students who are underrepresented in STEM fields; and (3) student participation in computer science and computational thinking education programs at tribal colleges and universities.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 24, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 24, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.