

## S 3506

### Strengthening the Public Health Workforce Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jan 13, 2022

**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. (Jan 13, 2022)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3506>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]

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

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jan 13, 2022
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jan 13, 2022
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jan 13, 2022

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 13, 2022

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 3799	Related bill	<b>Mar 15, 2022:</b> Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

## **Strengthening the Public Health Workforce Act**

This bill reauthorizes through FY2025 and makes changes to the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program (a program that awards student loan repayment to individuals with qualifying degrees who commit to work full-time for a federal, state, tribal, or local public health agency for a period of obligated service).

Changes to the program include increasing the maximum repayment amount; eliminating the option for individuals to complete the service obligation in a federal public health agency; and expanding the scope of qualifying degrees to cover, for example, those in statistics, computer science, and programs related to information technology.

In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services may take actions to equitably distribute awards across geographic regions, among jurisdictional levels, and between urban and rural areas.

The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct an evaluation of the public health workforce.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 13, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 13, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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