

S 879

Civics Secures Democracy Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Mar 22, 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. (Mar 22, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/879>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 22, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 22, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 4403	Related bill	Jun 14, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
117 S 4384	Related bill	Jun 13, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
117 HR 3242	Related bill	May 14, 2021: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.
117 HR 1814	Related bill	Mar 11, 2021: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Civics Secures Democracy Act

This bill provides resources to expand educational programs in American civics and history, including by establishing grant and fellowship programs and reauthorizing various programs.

First, the bill authorizes the Department of Education (ED) to award grants to states, qualified nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and qualified researchers to support and expand access to civics and history education.

Next, the bill establishes a fellowship program to diversify the civics and history education workforce.

In addition, the bill reauthorizes through FY2027 and revises the American History for Freedom grant program. The bill renames the program as the American Civics Education Program.

The bill revises the grant program to authorize ED to award grants to IHEs once every three years to establish or strengthen academic programs to promote American political thought and history; the history, achievements, and impact of American representative democracy and constitutional democracies globally; and the means of participation in political and civic life. IHEs may use grants to support additional activities, such as collaborating with federal or state humanities programs and using open educational resources.

Further, the bill reauthorizes through FY2022 and revises the Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund and the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Trust Fund.

Finally, the bill requires the National Assessment of Educational Progress in civics and history to be administered every two years to certain grade levels.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 22, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 22, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.