

S 1307

Right to Read Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Apr 26, 2023

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sponsor introdu

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1385) (Apr 26, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1307>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 6, 2023
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 12, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 16, 2023
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Dec 12, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 6, 2024
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 12, 2024
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 26, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 26, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 2889	Identical bill	Apr 26, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Right to Read Act of 2023

This bill expands access to school libraries and literacy skills support for elementary and secondary school students. It also outlines certain constitutional rights and liability protections related to school libraries.

Specifically, the bill reauthorizes through FY2028 (1) the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program, which provides grants to ensure high-quality instruction and effective strategies in reading and writing for children through 12th grade; and (2) the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program, which provides grants to support the development of literacy skills in low-income communities.

Additionally, the bill allows Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants to be used to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in recruiting, hiring, and retaining state-certified school librarians.

Further, the bill authorizes states and LEAs to use Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants for programs and activities that promote the development of digital literacy and information literacy skills.

The Department of Education (ED) must direct the National Center for Education Statistics to biennially collect data on school libraries.

ED must require an assurance from each state and LEA receiving certain funds confirming that it will (1) protect the First Amendment rights of students in school libraries, and (2) provide equal protection in the conduct of school libraries in compliance with the requirements of the Fourteenth Amendment and nondiscrimination laws.

The bill also provides liability protection to teachers, school librarians, school leaders, paraprofessionals, and other staff for actions that conform with state or local policies regarding the right to read.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 26, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 26, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1385)

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