H.E.L.P Committee

The H.E.L.P committee is name of the committee jurisdiction this group of Senators have been selected to service. The H.E.L.P committee stands for Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. The committee is used to refer all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other relating matters. The committee has a broad jurisdiction over the country’s health care, education, employment and retirement policies.

The Health Policy jurisdiction has most agencies, institutes, and programs that deals with the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Administration on Aging, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The main goal is to oversee public health, address emerging threats, and changing patterns in the healthcare industry. The education sector goal is to ensure the county’s work force is prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century through a lifetime of learning for our citizens. Education also has jurisdiction over numerous issues relating to education and the workforce development. The labor sector main goal is to oversee the workforce and employment trends and help with federal law and regulation of the changing pattern of the workplace. This will include employment laws, regulation of wages and hours of employment, enforcing mining and workplace health safety, combat employment-based discrimination, and regulate union/ management relations. The last policy section is pension. The overall committee goal is to oversee private retirement plans, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation through the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and rail road retirement.

The Appropriation Committee might involve themselves with legislation within the H.E.L.P committee. Since, the Appropriation Committee has a subcommittee on Food and Drug Administration. The Appropriations also has a subcommittee on Department of Labor and Health and Human Services. The Finance Committee also has legislation that overlaps the H.E.L.P committee. The Finance Committee has a subcommittee on Health Care, Social Security, and Pensions Policy. The Armed Services is the last Senate Committee that would overlap with responsibilities of the H.E.L.P. Committee. Both committees share policies in education of military members and their dependents.

A major issue has been brought to the H.E.L.P committee in recent years is attempting to make college affordability and decreasing the cost of college. The Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act requires annual counseling for students who are loan borrowers, that are Federal Pell Grant recipients. The Congressional Record shows the bill was passed by the House, brought to the Senate, and then referred to the H.E.L.P committee for further review of the bill. Another hot issue in the H.E.L.P Committee is stronger reform in education. The Congressional Record shows the Senate referred the expressed support for the use of the public-private partnerships to bring computer science education to more K-12 classrooms to the H.E.L.P. committee. The Senators on the H.E.L.P committee also discuss other major issues on stronger education reforms, free college, high school graduation rates, dependency status on FAFSA applications, public schools’ curriculums and standardized tests, college completion rate, teacher pay, and livestock handling. On March 12, a committee hearing was held to discuss and renewed its efforts to focus on the Higher Education Act (Hea) and simplifying FASFA/ reducing verification burden. The committee hearing also heard from four experts witnesses on simplifying FASFA. There also has been a committee meeting regarding the management of pain during the Opioid Crisis. This has been a major issue in the health department in the United States.