June 2022 Federal Policy Update

AIPI tracked the following bills and resolutions affecting Indian Country for the month of June 2022. This list includes legislation that was newly introduced or had other activity between May 23, 2022 and June 23, 2022.

   - This bill would reauthorize programs and activities under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). It adds new firearms laws and promotes housing stability and economic security for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The bill would also appropriate funding to Tribes from FY2022 - FY2026 to access Federal crime databases, and expand Tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians committing crimes related to domestic violence. Similar provisions were signed into law through Public Law No.117-103.
   - Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on May 24, 2022.

   - This bill would provide assistance to States and Tribal organizations for age-appropriate foster youth to, among other things, obtain automobile insurance, complete driver's education, obtain a driver's license, and purchase a vehicle.
   - Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on June 3, 2022.

   - This bill seeks to improve the preparation and response to heat waves and extreme heat. Tribes would be eligible for grants to establish community resilience centers, construction of water features, urban green spaces, and other heat mitigation projects.
   - Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means Committee, and Committee on Education and Labor on June 3, 2022.

4. **H.R.7948** - To require any entity established to develop congressional redistricting plans for a State to hold public hearings at which individuals who are members of communities of interest have a meaningful opportunity to express their views on proposed redistricting plans, and for other purposes. Sponsored by Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY-15).
   - This bill would require entities that develop congressional redistricting plans for a state to hold public hearings prior to the development of the final plan. This requirement would only apply to entities other than State legislatures. This bill
would also require hearings in locations that are within a reasonable distance of Tribal communities.

- Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 3, 2022.

   - This bill authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out activities concerning water resources development projects, water supply and wastewater infrastructure, flood control, navigation, or ecosystem restoration, such as shoreline restoration. This bill would make Tribes eligible for assistance to plan for flood hazards, to avoid repetitive flooding impacts, to anticipate, prepare, and adapt to changing climatic conditions and extreme weather events, and to withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruption due to flood hazards. It would also establish Tribal liaisons in each district containing a Tribal community.
   - Placed on Senate calendar no. 399 on June 9, 2022.

   - This bill would establish programs to promote firearms safety. Tribes would be eligible for funding from the Firearm Safe Storage Program and the Kimberly Vaughan Firearm Safe Storage Grant Program.
   - Received in the Senate on June 9, 2022.

   - This bill authorizes and establishes procedures for federal courts to issue federal extreme risk protection orders. The bill would make Tribes eligible for grants to support the implementation of extreme risk protection order laws. Tribal courts would also have full civil jurisdiction issue and enforce a protection order involving any person, including the authority to enforce any order through civil contempt proceedings, to exclude violators from Indian land, and to use other appropriate mechanisms.
   - Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on June 8, 2022.

   - This bill would increase required coal lease royalties and support efforts for economic revitalization and provide technical assistance and education outreach to Tribes and other impacted communities.

   - A bill to make Tribes eligible for grants to expand livestock or meat processing plants.
Placed on Union Calendar No. 279 on June 14, 2022.

   - This bill would extend financial and technical assistance to States, territories, the District of Columbia, and Indian Tribes for the purpose of conserving wildlife species, or recovering species currently listed as a threatened species or an endangered species.
   - Agreed to in the House on June 14, 2022.

   - This bill establishes the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies to investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of the Indian Boarding School Policies under which American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in boarding schools.
   - Mark-up session held in the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 15, 2022.

   - This bill would establish a Federal Working Group, to be known as the “Rio Grande Basin Working Group”, to consult and collaborate with the Basin States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, irrigation districts, conservation districts, acequias, land grant-mercedes, and other local partners in the Rio Grande Basin to develop and implement an integrated water resources management plan for the Rio Grande Basin using the best available science, data, and local knowledge. The bill would also reauthorize Pueblo irrigation Infrastructure Grants in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.
   - Hearing held in the House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife on June 16, 2022.

   - This bill seeks to improve water resource management across the U.S. by establishing national water data standards for Tribes, States, and local governments. It would also establish a water data council that will include representatives from the BIA and IHS. It would also establish an advisory committee with Tribal representatives. The bill also makes tribes eligible for grants under the Water data Grant Program.
   - Hearing held in the House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife on June 16, 2022.
   - This bill would amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to include in a report the amount available to the Secretary of Energy to make certain loan guarantees, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to provide for direct loans to Tribes and Tribal energy development organizations for energy development.
   - Referred to the House Subcommittee on Energy on June 16, 2022.

   - This bill seeks to protect cultural sites located on Federal Land, to improve consultation with Tribes, and to bring parity to Tribes with regard to Federal Public land management laws. Among other provisions, this bill would require that Tribal consultations must take place before disposal of a tract of land containing a sacred site and that the disposal would not impact the rights and interests of any interested Tribe and would not impair access to a reservation. It also establishes a Tribal right of first refusal in the sale of a tract.
   - Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 16, 2022.

16. **H.R.8115** - To amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to authorize sales and leases of certain Federal land to federally recognized Indian Tribes, and for other purposes. Sponsored by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01).
   - Bill text was not available at the time of this publication.

   - This bill would preserve opportunities for Indian Tribes to undertake religious, cultural, spiritual, medicinal, or traditional practices within Tribal cultural sites. In addition it would also permanently protect the religious, cultural, spiritual, scenic, ecological, medicinal, and traditional values of Tribal cultural sites. It would also give Tribes the opportunity to engage in the preservation and management of Tribal cultural sites on public land.
   - Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, and Committee on Agriculture on June 16, 2022.

   - A bill that would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to mental health and substance use disorders, including several grant and pilot programs for Tribes and Tribal entities.
   - Received in the Senate on June 23, 2022.
   - This bill provides statutory authority for a Department of Agriculture pilot program that provides direct loans to Native community development financial institutions to increase homeownership opportunities for tribal communities in rural areas.
   - Hearing held in the House Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development on May 25, 2022.

    - This bill designates Tribes as eligible entities to apply for funding to plan and construct water storage and conveyance projects, water desalination projects, and water restoration projects.
    - Hearing held in the Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power on May 25, 2022.

    - This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to confer with urban Indian organizations regarding health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives living in urban areas.
    - Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 26, 2022.

22. **S.4412** - Protecting Social Workers and Health Professionals from Workplace Violence Act. Sponsored by Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ).
    - This bill would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations to provide safety measures to social workers, health workers, and human services professionals performing services placing such individuals in high-risk and potentially dangerous situations.

    - This bill would include Tribes in cybersecurity training and exercises as well as provide resources to promote cybersecurity education and awareness. The bill also seeks to establish agreements among Tribes, States, local governments, and other entities.
    - Became Public Law No. 117-150.

- This bill would make tribes eligible for a grant program through the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide qualifying assistance to certain first-time, first-generation home buyers in purchasing their first homes. Qualifying assistance includes assistance for mortgage down payments, mortgage closing costs, reduction of mortgage interest rates, subsidies for shared equity homes, or for certain preoccupancy modifications to a home to accommodate persons with disabilities.
- Hearing held in the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on June, 22, 2022.