

March 2022 Federal Policy Update

APII tracked the following bills and resolutions affecting Indian Country for the month of March 2022. This list includes legislation that was newly introduced or had other activity between February 21, 2022 and March 25, 2022.

- 1. [H.R.6097](#) - Indigenous Peoples Exchange and Economic Cooperation Act. Sponsored by Rep. Norma J. Torres (D-CA-35).**
 - This bill would work to facilitate contacts and cooperation, including commercial relationships, between Native American Tribes and Indigenous peoples in the Western Hemisphere. The bill would direct the Secretary of Commerce to develop a strategy to promote economic activity between Tribes and Tribal entities.
 - Referred to the House Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, Migration and International Economic Policy on February 22, 2022.
- 2. [H.R.6366](#) - Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act. Sponsored by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA-03).**
 - This bill would modify the boundary of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument to include certain Federal land in Lake County, California. It would also direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly develop a comprehensive management plan for the National Monument with meaningful engagement with affected Tribes.
 - Hearing held in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands on March 1, 2022.
- 3. [H.R.3967](#) - Honoring our PACT Act of 2021. Sponsored by Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA-41).**
 - This bill addresses health care, presumption of service-connection, research, resources, and other matters related to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military service. The bill would also provide grants to states to improve outreach to veterans. States must show how the grant will be used to meet the unique needs of American Indian or Alaska Native veterans, elderly veterans, women veterans, and veterans from other underserved communities.
 - Received in the Senate on March 3, 2022.
- 4. [H.R.2471](#) - Consolidated Appropriations Act 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Hakeem S. Jeffries (D-NY-08).**
 - This bill provides appropriations to federal agencies for the remainder of FY2022, provides supplemental appropriations for activities to support Ukraine, and modifies or establishes various programs that address a wide range of policy areas. For Tribes, the bill reauthorizes provisions of the Violence Against Women Act that expands special criminal jurisdiction of Tribal courts to cover non-native

perpetrators of sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, sex trafficking, and assaults on Tribal law enforcement officers on Tribal lands; and supporting the development of a pilot project to enhance access to safety for survivors in Alaska Native villages.

- Became Public Law No. 117-103.
5. **[H.Res.983](#) (related bill: [S.Res.545](#)) - Recognizing the importance of Tribal colleges and universities to the United States and expressing support for designating the week beginning March 13, 2022, as National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week. Sponsored by Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ-01).**
 - A resolution recognizing the importance of Tribal colleges and universities to the United States and expressing support for designating the week beginning March 13, 2022, as National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on March 15, 2022.
6. **[H.R.5129](#) - Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2021. Sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01).**
 - This bill reauthorizes the Community Services Block Grant program through FY2031 and makes other changes to the program, including with respect to administration and leadership; performance measurement; and minimum and maximum allotments to states, territories, and Tribes.
7. **[H.R.6491](#) - Salmon FISH Act. Sponsored by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02).**
 - A bill to require the identification of salmon conservation areas and salmon strongholds. The bill requires the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service to consult with Tribes that have land, fishing rights, or cultural ties to the area in which the salmon conservation area or salmon strongholds will be prospectively located.
 - Hearing held in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife on March 17, 2022.
8. **[H.R.7141](#) (related bill: [S.2755](#))- College Completion Fund Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Melanie Ann Stansbury (D-NM-01).**
 - This bill establishes a grant program for participating public institutions of higher education to provide student support services to increase participation, retention, and completion rates of students from low-income backgrounds, historically underrepresented students, first-generation college enrollees, parenting students, students with disabilities, and student veterans. Tribal colleges and universities would be considered eligible entities for this grant.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor on March 17, 2022.
9. **[H.R.7122](#) (related bill: [S.3881](#))- Teachers LEAD Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-07).**

- This bill would direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs. Indian Tribes, Tribal education departments or agencies, or Tribal educational organizations with a successful track record in supporting teacher leadership programs or advancing teacher diversity would be prioritized for this program.

10. [H.R.7116](#) - 9–8–8 Implementation Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA-29).

- This bill would provide for improvements in the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. It would also establish an office to coordinate work relating to behavioral health crisis care across the operating divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Health Resources and Services Administration and external stakeholders. A program of the Indian Health Service, whether operated by such Service, an Indian Tribe (as that term is defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act), or by a Tribal organization (as that term is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act) or a facility of the Native Hawaiian health care systems authorized under the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act would also be eligible for grants created by this bill.
- Referred to multiple House committees on March 17, 2022.

11. [H.R.7019](#) (related bill: [S.3803](#))- Rural Prosperity Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-02).

- This bill establishes the Office of Rural Prosperity within the Executive Office of the President. The office would address the social, economic, and community well-being and resilience of rural areas in the U.S. by addressing unique structural challenges experienced by rural communities, including housing, education, healthcare, small business development, and job creation. It would also create the Rural Prosperity Council which includes members from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Interior. This council would be responsible for public outreach to Tribes.
- Referred to the House Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit on March 21, 2022.

12. [H.R.4521](#) - America COMPETES Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX-30).

- This bill would address scientific research, economic competitiveness, and various other matters. It would make Tribal Colleges and Universities eligible for grants that establish university technology centers, build institutional research capacity, STEM scholarships, and other technology initiatives.
- Considered by the Senate on March 24, 2022.

13. [H.R.7194](#) - Employee Rights Act. Sponsored by Rep. Rick W. Allen (R-GA-12).

- A bill that would make various labor reforms that includes the addition of “Indian Tribe”, “Indian”, and “Indian Lands” to the definitions of the National Labor Relations Act.
- Referred to multiple House committees on March, 24, 2022.

14. [S.3742](#) - Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2022. Sponsored by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

- This bill would establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility. Tribes would be eligible to apply for grants to fund eligible projects that will significantly improve accessibility to recycling systems.
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on March 3, 2022.

15. [S.3936](#) - Native Histories and Cultures Education Act of 2022. Sponsored by Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN).

- This act would support the National Museum of the American Indian to develop curriculum resources for students, educators, parents, and interested individuals and groups. This curriculum must be developed after significant consultation, engagement, and coordination with Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and stakeholders representing Native American peoples and interests, including Native Hawaiian education organizations. The bill would also direct the museum to develop a curriculum for elementary students and secondary school education.
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 14, 2022.

16. [S.Res.555](#) (related bill: [S.Res.125](#)) - A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States. Sponsored by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

- A bill that lists the accomplishments of many prominent Indigenous Women of the U.S. and celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions they have made and continue to make to the United States.
- Considered and agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 2022.

17. [S.3894](#) - Advancing Cybersecurity Through Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation Act. Sponsored by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX).

- An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a continuous diagnostics and mitigation program in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. It would create the Federal intrusion detection and prevention system and continuous diagnostics and mitigation pilot program for State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to monitor and implement best cybersecurity practices.