

May 2022 Federal Policy Update

APII tracked the following bills and resolutions affecting Indian Country for the month of May 2022. This list includes legislation that was newly introduced or had other activity between April 25, 2022 and May 20, 2022.

- 1. [H.R.7577](#) (related bill: [S.3968](#)) - CDC Tribal Public Health Security and Preparedness Act. Sponsored by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-07).**
 - This bill seeks to improve Tribal public health security by amending the Public Health Service Act to include Tribes in certain considerations and definitions, increasing funding from \$685,000,000 to \$750,000,000 for FY 2023 - FY 2025, and expanding waivers for program requirements for Tribes when appropriate.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 26, 2022.
- 2. [H.R.437](#) - To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to Alaska Native elders for determining eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes. Sponsored by Rep. Don Young (R-AK-At Large).**
 - This bill excludes certain settlement trust payments to an Alaska Native or descendant of an Alaska Native who is 65 years of age or older for purposes of determining the individual's eligibility for need-based federal programs (e.g., the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).
 - Hearing held in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the U.S. on April 27, 2022.
- 3. [H.R.7242](#) (related bill: [S.3875](#)) - Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS-03).**
 - This bill would make amendments to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and updated definition to include Tribal governments. It would also include disaster assessment program products that would include data for loss exposure, social vulnerability, community resilience, and other elements for Tribal jurisdictions.
 - Ordered to be reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on April 28, 2022.
- 4. [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.
 - In conference committee on May 4, 2022.

5. [H.R.7513](#) - **PREPARE Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. David P. Joyce (R-OH-14).**
 - This bill would establish a Commission on the Federal Regulation of Cannabis to study a prompt and plausible pathway to the Federal regulation of cannabis. Once established, the commission shall solicit comments with respect to the regulation of cannabis from industry stakeholders, criminal justice reform advocates, substance use advocates, healthcare experts, State cannabis regulators, and the Department of Justice of each State or Tribal government.
 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research on May 5, 2022.

6. [H.Res.1094](#) (related bill: [S.Res.620](#)) - **Expressing support for the designation of May 5, 2022, as the "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls". Sponsored by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA-04).**
 - This bill would express support for the designation of the "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls" on May 5, 2022 to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women whose cases are documented and undocumented in public records and the media, demonstrate solidarity with the families of victims in light of those tragedies, and recognizes there is more work to be done to address this nationwide crisis.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 5, 2022.

7. [H.R.4374](#) - **Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act. Sponsored by Rep. David Scott (D-GA-13).**
 - This bill would bolster certain rural broadband programs of the Department of Agriculture. Funding would be available to Tribes for community broadband mapping as well as allowing a percentage of ReConnect grants to be used for the collection of broadband mapping data.
 - House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration on May 6, 2022.

8. [H.R.7681](#) - **Preventing Overdoses and Saving Lives Act 2.0. Sponsored by Rep. French J. Hill (R-AR-02).**
 - A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs to reduce opioid overdose deaths. The bill would make Tribes eligible for grants for reducing overdose deaths, improve Tribal access to information and best practices on drug treatment, and make Tribes eligible for access and education grants.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 6, 2022.

9. [H.R.7309](#) - **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA-03).**
 - This bill would reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity and specifically amend 29 U.S.C. 3221 to remove the "competitive basis" criteria for

grants to Tribal entities meant for Native American workforce training and development.

- Agreed to in the House on May 17, 2022.

10. [H.R.7716](#) - Coordinating Substance Use and Homelessness Care Act of 2022.

Sponsored by Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA-04).

- This bill would establish a grant program to assist eligible entities to build or increase their capacities for the better coordination of health care and homelessness services for people who are experiencing homelessness. Tribes would be included as eligible entities for these grants.
- Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services on May 5, 2022.

11. [H.R.7632](#) (related bill: [S.2369](#)) - Tribal Access to Clean Water Act of 2022.

Sponsored by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-02).

- This bill provides funding for the Indian Health Service to provide essential sanitation facilities to community structures (schools, hospitals, and Tribal offices) that were not previously considered eligible for such service, provide technical assistance, and operate and maintain water facilities that serve Native communities. Next, the bill provides funding for the Department of Agriculture to provide water and wastewater facility grants to eligible entities that have residents facing significant health risks due to inadequate water supply systems. The bill specifies that these funds shall not require any matching contribution.

12. [H.R.6238](#) - WaterSMART Access for Tribes Act. Sponsored by Rep. Melanie Ann Stansbury (D-NM-01).

- This bill would amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to increase Tribal access to water conservation and efficiency grants, and for other purposes.
- Hearing held in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife on May 12, 2022.

13. [H.R.5444](#) (related bill: [S.2907](#)) - Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. Sponsored by Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS-03).

- 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.
- Hearing held in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States on May 12, 2022.

14. [H.R.7780](#) (related bill: [H.R.7784](#)) - **Mental Health Matters Act. Sponsored by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA-11).**
- A bill that would support the behavioral needs of students and youth, invest in the school-based behavioral health workforce, and ensure access to mental health and substance use disorder benefits. It would make Tribes eligible for grants to increase the number of school-based mental health services providers serving high-need local educational agencies.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor on May 16, 2022.
15. [H.R.7793](#) - **Rio Grande Water Security Act. Sponsored by Rep. Melanie Ann Stansbury (D-NM-01).**
- 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.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 17, 2022.
16. [H.R.7666](#) - **Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ-06).**
- 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.
 - Mark-up session held in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 18, 2022.
17. [H.R.7309](#) - **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2022. Sponsored by Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA-03).**
- This bill would reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The bill includes Native Americans in the definition for individuals with a barrier to employment, includes Tribes in the development of state plans to prepare an educated and skilled workforce, and includes Tribes in national workforce development.
 - Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on May 18, 2022.
18. [S.4077](#) - **INVEST in Our Communities Act. Sponsored by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV).**
- This act would establish the Office of Rural and Native American Economic Development. The office would develop a strategy for rural economic development and, in consultation with Native American communities, develop a

strategy for Native American economic development. It would also establish a 5% set aside for Tribes and Tribal organizations in the amounts available in the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

- Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 25, 2022.

19. [S.4083](#) - Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2022. Sponsored by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM).

- This bill would amend the requirements for hardrock mining on federal lands, The changes include a requirement for patent applications to be filed with the Department of Interior and a requirement for consultation with Tribes prior to the undertaking or issuing of a permit for mineral activity that has Tribal implications.
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on April 26, 2022.

20. [S.4091](#) - Overdose Review Team Act. Sponsored by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).

- This bill provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services for grants that support drug overdose fatality review teams in states, Indian tribes, territories, and localities. These multidisciplinary teams track fatal and nonfatal drug overdoses that occur in the jurisdiction to identify relevant trends and patterns and recommend policies and practices for preventing and reducing drug overdoses.
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on April 27, 2022.

21. [S.4136](#) (related bill [S.4137](#)) - Water Resources Development Act of 2022. Sponsored by Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-DE).

- This bill seeks to improve water related resources across the U.S. It would establish the Tribal and Economically Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Committee, reduce non-federal cost sharing for tribes for studies, and provide assistance for certain Tribal water resources across the U.S.
- Placed on Senate Calendar No. 361 on May 4, 2022.

22. [S.4165](#) - CDFI Crisis Fund Act. Sponsored by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI).

- This bill would amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to establish a CDFI National Crisis Fund. The Fund includes 10% set-aside for grants intended for Native community development financial institutions.
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs on May 9, 2022.

23. [S.Res.613](#) (related bill: [S.Res.205](#)) - A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2021, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by

minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

- A resolution that supports the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2021, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations in the United States, such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.
- Agreed to in the Senate on May 11, 2022.

24. [S.3429](#) (related bill: [H.R.6651](#)) - Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act.

Sponsored by Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK).

- This bill requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to convene an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force. The task force must review and report on research about the Pacific salmon in Alaska, identify applied research needed to better understand salmon migration and declining salmon returns in some regions of Alaska, and support sustainable management of salmon. The Task Force must have two representatives representing Alaska Natives who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska.
- Ordered to be reported favorably with an amendment from the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on May 11, 2022.

25. [S.3381](#) - Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2021. Sponsored by Sen. John Thune (R-SD).

- This bill sets forth requirements for the processing of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The bureau must notify lenders upon receipt of such documentation, perform a preliminary review of such documents not later than 10 days after receipt, and approve or disapprove of such documents within 20 or 30 days, depending on the type of application.
- Ordered to be reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 18, 2022.

26. [S.3789](#) - A bill to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and for other purposes. Sponsored by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI).

- This bill would amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- Reported with an amendment from the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 18, 2022.

27. [S.1880](#) (related bill: [H.R.1762](#)) - **Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act.**

Sponsored by Rep. Mullin Markwayne (R-OK-02).

- This bill requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), after consultation with Tribes, to report on unfair or deceptive practices that target Tribes or Tribal members. The FTC must submit the report to Congress and make it publicly available. Further, the FTC must update its website to include information for consumers and businesses on identifying and avoiding unfair or deceptive practices that target Tribes or Tribal members.
- Written report filed by Sen. Centwell in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on May 18, 2022.

28. [S.2616](#) - **Livable Communities Act of 2021. Sponsored by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).**

- This bill would strengthen rural, suburban, and urban economies by enabling communities to establish goals for the future and to chart a course for achieving such goals. Tribes would be eligible for planning grants to make investments in housing, transportation, environmental, and resiliency projects in and for the benefit of historically disadvantaged or underserved minority and low-income communities.
- Hearing held in the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on May 18, 2022.