

October 2022 Federal Policy Update

APII tracked the following bills and resolutions affecting Indian Country for the month of October 2022. This list includes legislation that was newly introduced or had other activity between September 26, 2022 and October 21, 2022.

1. [S.4949](#) - **National Cemeteries Preservation and Protection Act of 2022. Sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT).**
 - This bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to address green burial sections in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.
 - This bill would create plot and interment allowances for veterans buried before March 15, 2022, in cemeteries on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, Tribal organizations.
 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on September 27, 2022.

2. [S.5001](#) - **Tribal Connect Act of 2022. Sponsored by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM).**
 - This bill would amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve access by Indian Tribes to support universal service programs of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.
 - This bill would establish the Tribal Essential Community-Serving Institution Program, which provides opportunities for Indian Tribes to request broadband internet access service at essential community-serving institutions located on Tribal land and authorizes support for the development of infrastructure to provide the services requested.
 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs on September 28, 2022.

3. [H.R.9068](#) - **Tribal COPS Act. Sponsored by Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ-1).**
 - This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to increase the capabilities of Tribal law enforcement agencies through compensating law enforcement officers employed by the Indian Tribe, providing training, providing housing stipends, procuring equipment, and procuring, operating, and maintaining facilities.
 - This bill would authorize \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out its purposes.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 29, 2022.

4. [S.5013](#) - **Protection and Advocacy in Education Act. Sponsored by Sen. Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH).**
 - This bill would authorize grants to establish a national education protection and advocacy program to enforce the rights and protections under the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

- This bill would reserve funds of at least \$60,000 per fiscal year for a protection and advocacy system located in the American Indian Consortium, among others.
 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on September 29, 2022.
5. **[S.5021](#) - Broadband Grant Tax Treatment Act. Sponsored by Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA).**
- This bill will amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income.
 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on September 29, 2022.
6. **[S.5051](#) - Foster Youth and Driving Act. Sponsored by Sen. Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH).**
- This bill would amend title IV of the Social Security Act to expand foster parent training and authorize new appropriations to support the obtainment of a driver's license.
 - This bill would require that the Secretary shall reserve up to 3 percent of the amount appropriated each year for the Driving and Transportation and Assistance Program for payments to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.
 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance on September 29, 2022.
7. **[H.R.6833](#) - Making Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023, and for Other Purposes. Sponsored by Rep Angie Craig (D-MN-2).**
- This bill provides additional funding to the Indian Health Service for costs related to staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in FY2022 and FY2023. It also allows the funds to be apportioned at the rate necessary to staff and operate the facilities.
 - Became Public Law No: 117-180 on September 30, 2022.
8. **[H.R.9114](#) - Native American Millennium Challenge Demonstration Act. Sponsored by Rep. Mary Sattler Peltola (D-AK-AL).**
- This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to adapt the successful practices of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to Native communities in similarly situated remote areas in the United States.
 - Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 30, 2022.
9. **[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.
- This bill would make Tribes eligible for grants to increase the number of school-based mental health services providers serving high-need local educational agencies. One half of 1 percent of grant appropriations will be set aside for the Secretary of the Interior to carry out programs under this title in schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, or a consortium of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations
- Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on October 11, 2022.