

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. ISAKSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk
Indian veterans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tribal HUD-VASH
5 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS OR AT-RISK**

7 **INDIAN VETERANS.**

8 Section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act
9 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

1 “(D) INDIAN VETERANS HOUSING RENTAL
2 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

3 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
4 graph:

5 “(I) ELIGIBLE INDIAN VET-
6 ERAN.—The term ‘eligible Indian vet-
7 eran’ means an Indian veteran who
8 is—

9 “(aa) homeless or at risk of
10 homelessness; and

11 “(bb) residing in or near an
12 Indian area.

13 “(II) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—
14 The term ‘eligible recipient’ means a
15 recipient eligible to receive a grant
16 under section 101 of the Native
17 American Housing Assistance and
18 Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25
19 U.S.C. 4111).

20 “(III) INDIAN.—The term ‘In-
21 dian’ has the meaning given the term
22 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
23 mination and Education Assistance
24 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

1 “(IV) INDIAN AREA.—The term
2 ‘Indian area’ has the meaning given
3 the term in section 4 of the Native
4 American Housing Assistance and
5 Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25
6 U.S.C. 4103).

7 “(V) INDIAN VETERAN.—The
8 term ‘Indian veteran’ means an In-
9 dian who is a veteran.

10 “(VI) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—
11 The term ‘tribal organization’ has the
12 meaning given the term in section 4
13 of the Indian Self-Determination and
14 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
15 5304).

16 “(ii) PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—
17 The Secretary shall use not less than 5
18 percent of the amounts made available for
19 rental assistance under this subsection to
20 carry out a rental assistance and sup-
21 ported housing program (in this subpara-
22 graph referred to as the ‘Program’), in
23 conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans
24 Affairs, for the benefit of eligible Indian
25 veterans.

1 “(iii) MODEL.—

2 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
3 provided in subclause (II), the Sec-
4 retary shall model the Program on the
5 rental assistance and supported hous-
6 ing program authorized under sub-
7 paragraph (A) and applicable appro-
8 priations Acts, including administra-
9 tion in conjunction with the Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs.

11 “(II) EXCEPTIONS.—

12 “(aa) SECRETARY OF HOUS-
13 ING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
14 MENT.—After consultation with
15 Indian tribes, eligible recipients,
16 and any other appropriate tribal
17 organizations, the Secretary may
18 make necessary and appropriate
19 modifications to facilitate the use
20 of the Program by eligible recipi-
21 ents to serve eligible Indian vet-
22 erans.

23 “(bb) SECRETARY OF VET-
24 ERANS AFFAIRS.—After consulta-
25 tion with Indian tribes, eligible

1 recipients, and any other appro-
2 priate tribal organizations, the
3 Secretary of Veterans Affairs
4 may make necessary and appro-
5 priate modifications to facilitate
6 the use of the Program by eligi-
7 ble recipients to serve eligible In-
8 dian veterans.

9 “(iv) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The
10 Secretary shall make amounts for rental
11 assistance and associated administrative
12 costs under the Program available to eligi-
13 ble recipients.

14 “(v) FUNDING CRITERIA.—The Sec-
15 retary shall award rental assistance under
16 the Program based on—

17 “(I) need;

18 “(II) administrative capacity; and

19 “(III) any other funding criteria
20 established by the Secretary in a no-
21 tice published in the Federal Register
22 after consulting with the Secretary of
23 Veterans Affairs.

24 “(vi) ADMINISTRATION.—Rental as-
25 sistance made available under the Program

1 shall be administered in accordance with
2 the Native American Housing Assistance
3 and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25
4 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), except that grantees
5 shall—

6 “(I) submit to the Secretary, in a
7 manner prescribed by the Secretary,
8 reports on the utilization of rental as-
9 sistance provided under the Program;
10 and

11 “(II) provide to the Secretary in-
12 formation specified by the Secretary
13 to assess the effectiveness of the Pro-
14 gram in serving eligible Indian vet-
15 erans.

16 “(vii) CONSULTATION.—

17 “(I) GRANT RECIPIENTS; TRIBAL
18 ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary, in
19 coordination with the Secretary of
20 Veterans Affairs, shall consult with el-
21 igible recipients and any other appro-
22 priate tribal organization on the de-
23 sign of the Program to ensure the ef-
24 fective delivery of rental assistance

1 and supportive services to eligible In-
2 dian veterans under the Program.

3 “(II) INDIAN HEALTH SERV-
4 ICE.—The Director of the Indian
5 Health Service shall provide any as-
6 sistance requested by the Secretary or
7 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in
8 carrying out the Program.

9 “(viii) WAIVER.—

10 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
11 provided in subclause (II), the Sec-
12 retary may waive or specify alter-
13 native requirements for any provision
14 of law (including regulations) that the
15 Secretary administers in connection
16 with the use of rental assistance made
17 available under the Program if the
18 Secretary finds that the waiver or al-
19 ternative requirement is necessary for
20 the effective delivery and administra-
21 tion of rental assistance under the
22 Program to eligible Indian veterans.

23 “(II) EXCEPTION.—The Sec-
24 retary may not waive or specify alter-
25 native requirements under subclause

1 (I) for any provision of law (including
2 regulations) relating to labor stand-
3 ards or the environment.

4 “(ix) REPORTING.—Every 5 years, the
5 Secretary, in coordination with the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs and the Director
7 of the Indian Health Service, shall—

8 “(I) conduct a review of the im-
9 plementation of the Program, includ-
10 ing any factors that may have limited
11 its success; and

12 “(II) submit a report describing
13 the results of the review under sub-
14 clause (I) to—

15 “(aa) the Committee on In-
16 dian Affairs, the Committee on
17 Banking, Housing, and Urban
18 Affairs, the Committee on Vet-
19 erans’ Affairs, and the Com-
20 mittee on Appropriations of the
21 Senate; and

22 “(bb) the Subcommittee on
23 Indian, Insular and Alaska Na-
24 tive Affairs of the Committee on
25 Natural Resources, the Com-

1 mittee on Financial Services, the
2 Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
3 and the Committee on Appropria-
4 tions of the House of Representa-
5 tives.”.