

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4188

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish the Native American Language Vitalization and Training Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 16, 2019

Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish the Native American Language Vitalization and Training Program.

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 “Native American Lan-
5 guage Vitalization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE VITALIZATION AND**
2 **TRAINING PROGRAM.**

3 Part A of title III of the Higher Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1057 et seq.) is amended by inserting
5 after section 316 (20 U.S.C. 1059e) the following:

6 **“SEC. 316A. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE VITALIZATION**
7 **AND TRAINING PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount appro-
10 priated under subsection (d), the Secretary shall es-
11 tablish the Native American Language Vitalization
12 and Training Program under which the Secretary
13 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
14 institutions to promote the preservation, revitaliza-
15 tion, relevancy, and use of Native American lan-
16 guages.

17 “(2) TERM.—The term of a grant under this
18 section shall be not more than 5 years.

19 “(3) APPLICATION.—

20 “(A) STREAMLINED PROCESS.—In car-
21 rying out the program under this section, the
22 Secretary shall establish application require-
23 ments in such a manner as to simplify and
24 streamline the process for the grant application
25 under this section.

1 “(B) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
2 ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible
3 institution shall submit to the Secretary an ap-
4 plication at such time, in such manner, and in
5 accordance with any other application require-
6 ments described in subparagraph (A), that the
7 Secretary may prescribe, and including the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(i) A description of the 5-year pro-
10 gram of the eligible institution for meeting
11 the needs of American Indians, Alaska Na-
12 tives, Native Hawaiians, or Native Amer-
13 ican Pacific Islanders as appropriate, in
14 the area served by the institution, and how
15 such plan is consistent with the purposes
16 described in paragraph (1).

17 “(ii)(I) An identification of the popu-
18 lation to be served by the eligible institu-
19 tion; and

20 “(II) an identification of the status of
21 Native American language understanding
22 and use within that population and a de-
23 scription of the manner in which the pro-
24 gram will help preserve and revitalize the
25 relevant Native American language.

1 “(iii) A description of the services to
2 be provided under the program, including
3 the manner in which the services will be in-
4 tegrated with other appropriate activities.

5 “(iv) A description, to be prepared in
6 consultation with the Secretary, of the per-
7 formance measures to be used to assess
8 the performance of the eligible institution
9 in carrying out the program.

10 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution may
11 use a grant under this section to carry out activities con-
12 sistent with the purposes described in subsection (a)(1),
13 including—

14 “(1) curriculum development and academic in-
15 struction, including educational activities, programs,
16 and partnerships relating to students in early child-
17 hood education programs through grade 12;

18 “(2) professional development for faculty at the
19 eligible institution and in-service training programs
20 for early childhood education programs through
21 grade 12 instructors and administrators; and

22 “(3) innovative Native American language pro-
23 grams for students in early childhood education pro-
24 grams through grade 12, including language immer-
25 sion programs.

1 “(c) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—

2 “(1) CONCURRENT FUNDING.—

3 “(A) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—

4 An eligible institution that is a Tribal College
5 or University may receive a grant under this
6 section and funds under section 316 concur-
7 rently.

8 “(B) ALASKA NATIVE-SERVING INSTITU-

9 TION OR NATIVE HAWAIIAN-SERVING INSTITU-
10 TION.—An eligible institution that is an Alaska
11 Native-serving institution or Native Hawaiian-
12 serving institution may receive a grant under
13 this section and funds under section 317 con-
14 currently.

15 “(C) ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMER-

16 ICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERVING INSTITU-
17 TION.—An eligible institution that is an Asian
18 American and Native American Pacific Is-
19 lander-serving institution may receive a grant
20 under this section and funds under section 320
21 concurrently.

22 “(2) EXEMPTION.—Sections 312(b) and 313(d)
23 shall not apply to an eligible institution that receives
24 a grant under this section.

1 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and each of the 5 suc-
4 ceeding fiscal years.

5 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
7 ble institution’ means—

8 “(A) a Tribal College or University, as de-
9 fined in section 316;

10 “(B) an Alaska Native-serving institution,
11 as defined in section 317;

12 “(C) a Native Hawaiian-serving institu-
13 tion, as defined in section 317; or

14 “(D) an Asian American and Native Amer-
15 ican Pacific Islander-serving institution, as de-
16 fined in section 320, which is located in the
17 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
18 lands, American Samoa, or Guam.

19 “(2) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term ‘Native
20 American’ has the meaning given the term in section
21 371(c)(6).”.

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