

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4524

To amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2023

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. COLE, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Mr. VASQUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

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 “Parity for Tribal Law
5 Enforcement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**

2 The Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C.
3 2801 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4 the
4 following:

5 **“SEC. 4A. TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**

6 “(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal
7 law, law enforcement officers of any Indian Tribe that has
8 contracted or compacted any or all Federal law enforce-
9 ment functions through the Indian Self-Determination
10 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)
11 shall have the authority to enforce Federal law within the
12 area under the Tribe’s jurisdiction, if—

13 “(1) the Tribal officers involved have—

14 “(A) completed training that is comparable
15 to that of an employee of the Office of Justice
16 Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs who is
17 providing the same services in Indian country,
18 as determined by the Deputy Bureau Director
19 of the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau
20 of Indian Affairs or the Deputy Bureau Direc-
21 tor’s designee;

22 “(B) passed an adjudicated background in-
23 vestigation equivalent to that of an employee of
24 the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of
25 Indian Affairs who is providing the same serv-
26 ices in Indian country; and

1 “(C) received a certification from the Of-
2 fice of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian
3 Affairs, as described in subsection (c); and

4 “(2) the Tribe has adopted policies and proce-
5 dures that meet or exceed those of the Office of Jus-
6 tice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the
7 same program, service, function, or activity.

8 “(b) While acting under the authority granted by the
9 Secretary through an Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
10 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) contract
11 or compact, a Tribal law enforcement officer shall be
12 deemed to be a Federal law enforcement officer for the
13 purposes of—

14 “(1) sections 111 and 1114 of title 18, United
15 States Code;

16 “(2) consideration as an eligible officer under
17 subchapter III of chapter 81 of title 5, United
18 States Code;

19 “(3) subchapter III of chapter 83 and sub-
20 chapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, United States
21 Code; and

22 “(4) chapter 171 of title 28, United States
23 Code (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims
24 Act’).

1 “(c)(1) Not later than 24 months after the date of
2 enactment of this section, the Secretary shall—

3 “(A) develop procedures for the credentialing of
4 Tribal officers under this section, independent of
5 section 5, to provide confirmation that Tribal offi-
6 cers meet minimum certification standards and
7 training requirements for Indian country peace offi-
8 cers, as prescribed by the Secretary; and

9 “(B) promulgate guidance, in consultation with
10 Indian Tribes, to otherwise implement the provisions
11 of this section.

12 “(2) Tribal law enforcement officers who choose to
13 attend a State or other equivalent training program ap-
14 proved by the Deputy Bureau Director of the Office of
15 Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the
16 Deputy Bureau Director’s designee, rather than attend
17 the Indian Police Academy, shall be required to attend the
18 IPA Bridge Program, or an equivalent program, prior to
19 receiving a certification under this subsection.”.

20 **SEC. 3. OVERSIGHT, COORDINATION, AND ACCOUNT-**
21 **ABILITY.**

22 The Attorney General, acting through the Deputy At-
23 torney General, shall coordinate and provide oversight for
24 all Department of Justice activities, responsibilities, func-
25 tions, and programs to ensure a coordinated approach for

1 public safety in Indian communities, accountability, and
2 compliance with Federal law, including—

3 (1) the timely submission of reports to Con-
4 gress;

5 (2) robust training, as required under Federal
6 law and as needed or requested by Indian Tribes or
7 Federal and State officials relating to—

8 (A) public safety in Indian communities;
9 and

10 (B) training outcomes demonstrating a
11 better understanding of public safety ap-
12 proaches in Indian communities;

13 (3) the updating and improvements to United
14 States attorney operational plans;

15 (4) comprehensive evaluation and analysis of
16 data, including approaches to collecting better data,
17 relating to public safety in Indian communities; and

18 (5) other duties or responsibilities as needed to
19 improve public safety in Indian communities.

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