

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess on Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GALLEGO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess on Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot 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 VetSuccess on
5 Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIVE VETSUCCESS ON TRIBAL COLLEGES AND**
2 **UNIVERSITIES PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Veterans Affairs shall carry out a five-year pilot program,
6 to be known as the “Native VetSuccess on Tribal Colleges
7 and Universities Pilot Program” at three Tribal Colleges
8 and Universities selected by the Secretary for participation
9 in the pilot program. Under such pilot program the Sec-
10 retary shall—

11 (1) assign to each participating college or uni-
12 versity a VetSuccess on Campus counselor and a
13 full-time Vet Center outreach coordinator; and

14 (2) provide for eligible students at such partici-
15 pating colleges and universities with all services for
16 which such students would be eligible under the
17 VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department
18 of Veterans Affairs.

19 (b) **ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.**—For purposes of the pilot
20 program, an eligible student is a student who is a veteran,
21 member of the Armed Forces, or dependent of a veteran
22 or member of the Armed Forces who is eligible for any
23 service or benefit under the VetSuccess on Campus pro-
24 gram of the Department.

25 (c) **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.**—In developing
26 the pilot program under this section, the Secretary, acting

1 through the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
2 Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in
3 coordination with the Office Tribal Government Relations
4 of the Department, shall consult with Indian tribes, Tribal
5 organizations, and veterans service organizations regard-
6 ing each of the following:

7 (1) The design of the pilot program.

8 (2) The selection of the three Tribal Colleges
9 and Universities for participation in the pilot pro-
10 gram, taking into consideration—

11 (A) the number of eligible students en-
12 rolled in the college or university;

13 (B) the capacity of the college or university
14 to accommodate on campus at the school a full-
15 time VetSuccess on Campus counselor and a
16 full-time Vet Center outreach coordinator;

17 (C) the lack of information available at the
18 college or university about and lack of access to
19 benefits and services under the laws adminis-
20 tered by the Secretary; and

21 (D) any other factor that the Secretary or
22 the Indian tribes, Tribal organizations, and vet-
23 erans service organizations identify as relevant.

1 (3) The most effective way to provide culturally
2 competent outreach and services to eligible students
3 at Tribal Colleges and Universities.

4 (d) **OUTREACH TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**—
5 The Secretary shall provide notice of the pilot program
6 to all Tribal Colleges and Universities and encourage all
7 Tribal Colleges and Universities to apply to participate in
8 the pilot program.

9 (e) **BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS.**—

10 (1) **IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING.**—Not later
11 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
12 Act, the Secretary shall provide for the Committee
13 on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Natural
14 Resources of the House of Representatives and the
15 Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee
16 on Indian Affairs of the Senate a briefing on—

17 (A) the design, structure, and objectives of
18 the pilot program; and

19 (B) the three Tribal Colleges and Univer-
20 sities selected for participation in the pilot pro-
21 gram and the reason for the selection of such
22 colleges and universities.

23 (2) **REPORT.**—Not later than four years after
24 the date on which the Secretary establishes the pilot
25 program, the Secretary shall submit to such Com-

1 mittees a report on the pilot program. Such report
2 shall include each of the following:

3 (A) The number of eligible students pro-
4 vided services through the pilot program.

5 (B) The types of services that eligible stu-
6 dents received through the pilot program.

7 (C) The graduation rate of eligible stu-
8 dents who received services through the pilot
9 program.

10 (D) The rate of employment within one
11 year of graduation for eligible students who re-
12 ceived services through the pilot program.

13 (E) Feedback from each Tribal college or
14 university that participated in the pilot pro-
15 gram.

16 (F) A detailed legislative proposal regard-
17 ing a long-term extension of the pilot program,
18 including a budget, if the Secretary determines
19 that such an extension is appropriate.

20 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) The term “Tribal college or university” has
22 the meaning given such term under section 316 of
23 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
24 1059c).

1 (2) The term “tribal organization” has the
2 meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian
3 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
4 (25 U.S.C. 450b).

5 (3) The term “culturally competent” means
6 considerate of the unique values, customs, traditions,
7 cultures, and languages of Native American vet-
8 erans.