

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4359

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. RUIZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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

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