

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9887

To assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds.

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 “Native American Seeds
5 Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
9 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
2 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

3 (2) NATIVE AMERICAN SEED.—The term “Na-
4 tive American seed” means a seed of traditional or
5 cultural significance to an Indian Tribe.

6 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

8 **SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN SEEDS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
11 sultation with Indian Tribes, shall establish a program
12 within the Department of the Interior to—

13 (1) determine which seeds are Native American
14 seeds; and

15 (2) support—

16 (A) efforts of Indian Tribes to protect Na-
17 tive American seeds;

18 (B) Native American seed banks and re-
19 lated facilities; and

20 (C) traditional agriculture systems of In-
21 dian Tribes that provide for the nurturing and
22 harvesting of Native American seeds.

23 (b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Notwith-
24 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary shall

1 not disclose or cause to be disclosed any information that
2 is—

3 (1) provided to the Secretary by an Indian
4 Tribe for the purposes of this Act; and

5 (2) identified by the Indian Tribe as culturally
6 sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential.

7 **SEC. 4. JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

8 Notwithstanding section 706 of title 5, United States
9 Code, a court shall defer to the Secretary's reasonable in-
10 terpretation of any ambiguous provision of this Act.

11 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
13 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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