

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2274

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. UDALL, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. DAINES) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

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. RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS OR AT-**

4 **RISK INDIAN VETERANS.**

5 Section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act
6 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended by adding
7 at the end the following:

8 “(D) INDIAN VETERANS HOUSING RENTAL
9 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

1 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
2 graph:

3 “(I) INDIAN.—The term ‘Indian’
4 has the meaning given the term in
5 section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
6 mination and Education Assistance
7 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

8 “(II) INDIAN AREA.—The term
9 ‘Indian area’ has the meaning given
10 the term in section 4 of the Native
11 American Housing Assistance and
12 Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25
13 U.S.C. 4103).

14 “(III) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—
15 The term ‘tribal organization’ has the
16 meaning given the term in section 4
17 of the Indian Self-Determination and
18 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
19 450b).

20 “(ii) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—
21 The Secretary may use not more than 5
22 percent of the amounts made available for
23 rental assistance under this subsection to
24 carry out a rental assistance and sup-
25 portive housing program, in conjunction

1 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, for
2 the benefit of Indian veterans who are
3 homeless or at risk of homelessness and
4 who are residing on or near an Indian
5 area.

6 “(iii) MODEL.—The program de-
7 scribed in clause (ii) shall be modeled on
8 the rental assistance and supportive hous-
9 ing program authorized under this section
10 and applicable appropriations Acts, includ-
11 ing administration in conjunction with the
12 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, except that
13 the Secretary may make necessary and ap-
14 propriate modifications to facilitate the use
15 of the program by Indian grant recipients
16 to serve eligible Indian veterans.

17 “(iv) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—
18 Amounts for rental assistance and associ-
19 ated administrative costs under clause (ii)
20 shall be made available to recipients eligi-
21 ble to receive grants under section 101 of
22 the Native American Housing Assistance
23 and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25
24 U.S.C. 4111).

1 “(v) FUNDING CRITERIA.—Rental as-
2 sistance under clause (ii) shall be awarded
3 based on—

4 “(I) need;

5 “(II) administrative capacity; and

6 “(III) any other funding criteria
7 established by the Secretary in a no-
8 tice published in the Federal Register
9 after consulting with the Secretary of
10 Veterans Affairs.

11 “(vi) ADMINISTRATION.—Rental as-
12 sistance made available under clause (ii)
13 shall be administered in accordance with
14 the Native American Housing Assistance
15 and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25
16 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), except that grantees
17 shall—

18 “(I) submit to the Secretary, in a
19 manner prescribed by the Secretary,
20 reports on the utilization of rental as-
21 sistance provided under the program;
22 and

23 “(II) provide to the Secretary in-
24 formation specified by the Secretary

1 to assess the effectiveness of the pro-
2 gram in serving eligible veterans.

3 “(vii) CONSULTATION.—The Sec-
4 retary, in coordination with the Secretary
5 of Veterans Affairs, shall consult with re-
6 cipients of grants under section 101 of the
7 Native American Housing Assistance and
8 Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C.
9 4111) and any other appropriate tribal or-
10 ganization on the design of the program to
11 ensure the effective delivery of rental as-
12 sistance and supportive services to persons
13 eligible to receive assistance under this
14 subparagraph.

15 “(viii) WAIVER.—

16 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
17 provided in subclause (II), the Sec-
18 retary may waive or specify alter-
19 native requirements for any provision
20 of law (including regulations) that the
21 Secretary administers in connection
22 with the use of rental assistance made
23 available under this subparagraph if
24 the Secretary finds that the waiver or
25 alternative requirement is necessary

1 for the effective delivery and adminis-
2 tration of rental assistance made
3 available under this subparagraph to
4 Indian veterans.

5 “(II) EXCEPTION.—The Sec-
6 retary shall not waive or specify alter-
7 native requirements under subclause
8 (I) for any provision of law (including
9 regulations) relating to labor stand-
10 ards or the environment.”.

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