

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 989

AN ACT

To establish a Native American language resource center in furtherance of the policy set forth in the Native American Languages Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Native American Lan-
3 guage Resource Center Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CEN-
5 TERS.**

6 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to further
7 align the resources provided by the Department of Edu-
8 cation with the policies set forth in the Native American
9 Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) through estab-
10 lishment of a program within the Department of Edu-
11 cation to support 1 or more Native American language
12 resource centers.

13 (b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Education is au-
14 thorized to make a grant to, or enter into a contract with,
15 an eligible entity for the purpose of—

16 (1) establishing, strengthening, and operating a
17 Native American language resource center; and

18 (2) staffing the center with individuals with rel-
19 evant expertise and experience, including staff who
20 speak American Indian and Alaska Native languages
21 and the Native Hawaiian language and have worked
22 in language education in the American Indian and
23 Alaska Native languages and the Native Hawaiian
24 language in a preschool, elementary school, sec-
25 ondary school, adult education, or higher education
26 program.

1 (c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Native American
2 language resource center established under subsection (b)
3 shall carry out activities to—

4 (1) improve the capacity to teach and learn Na-
5 tive American languages;

6 (2) further Native American language use and
7 acquisition;

8 (3) preserve, protect, and promote the rights
9 and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice,
10 and develop Native American languages in further-
11 ance of—

12 (A) the policies set forth in the Native
13 American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et
14 seq.); and

15 (B) the United States trust responsibility
16 to Native American communities;

17 (4) address the effects of past discrimination
18 and ongoing inequities experienced by Native Amer-
19 ican language speakers;

20 (5) support the revitalization and reclamation
21 of Native American languages; and

22 (6) support the use of Native American lan-
23 guages as a medium of instruction for a wide variety
24 of age levels, academic content areas, and types of

1 schools, including Native American language me-
2 dium education.

3 (d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The
4 Native American language resource center established
5 under subsection (b) may also carry out activities—

6 (1) to encourage and support the use of Native
7 American languages within educational systems in
8 the same manner as other world languages, includ-
9 ing by encouraging State educational agencies, local
10 educational agencies, and institutions of higher edu-
11 cation to offer Native American language courses
12 the same full academic credit as courses in other
13 world languages;

14 (2) to support the development, adoption, and
15 use of educational outcome metrics aligned with the
16 Native American language of instruction, including
17 assessments, qualifications, and processes based on
18 promising practices in Native American language
19 medium education;

20 (3) to provide assistance to Native American
21 language programs seeking Federal resources;

22 (4) to encourage and support teacher prepara-
23 tion programs that prepare teachers to teach Native
24 American languages and to use Native American
25 languages as a medium of instruction, including by

1 disseminating promising practices and developing
2 pedagogical programming and through appropriate
3 alternative pathways to teacher certification;

4 (5) to provide information and resources—

5 (A) on promising practices in the use and
6 revitalization of Native American languages in
7 Native American communities, including use in
8 educational institutions; and

9 (B) for the use of technology in school and
10 community-based Native American language
11 programs to support the retention, use, and
12 teaching of Native American languages;

13 (6) to support the use of distance learning tech-
14 nologies and training for parents, students, teachers,
15 and learning support staff associated with Native
16 American language programs, including—

17 (A) the compilation and curation of digital
18 libraries and other online resources for Native
19 American languages, except that any materials
20 collected by the center shall only be materials
21 provided by a Native American language pro-
22 gram or Native American community;

23 (B) the development of optional distance
24 learning curricula appropriate for preschool, el-

1 elementary school, secondary school, adult edu-
2 cation, and postsecondary education;

3 (C) pedagogical training for Native Amer-
4 ican language teachers; and

5 (D) other efforts necessary to continue Na-
6 tive American language acquisition through dis-
7 tance learning;

8 (7) to provide technical assistance for Native
9 American communities and school systems to de-
10 velop Native American language medium education
11 programs in preschool, elementary school, secondary
12 school, or adult education programs conducted
13 through the medium of Native American languages;

14 (8) to support Native American language pro-
15 grams and Native American communities in—

16 (A) accessing international best practices,
17 resources, and research in indigenous language
18 revitalization; and

19 (B) gathering and sharing technical assist-
20 ance, promising practices, and experiences;

21 (9) for the operation of intensive programs, in-
22 cluding summer institutes, to train Native American
23 language speakers, to provide professional develop-
24 ment, and to improve Native American language in-

1 struction through preservice and in-service language
2 training for teachers; and

3 (10) that otherwise support the Native Amer-
4 ican language resource center established under sub-
5 section (b) to carry out the activities required in
6 subsection (c).

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “elemen-
9 tary school”, “local educational agency”, “secondary
10 school”, and “State educational agency” have the
11 meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Ele-
12 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
13 U.S.C. 7801).

14 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
15 ty” means—

16 (A) an institution of higher education;

17 (B) an entity within an institution of high-
18 er education with dedicated expertise in Native
19 American language and culture education; or

20 (C) a consortium that includes 1 or more
21 institutions of higher education or 1 or more
22 entities described in subparagraph (B).

23 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
24 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (4) NATIVE AMERICAN; NATIVE AMERICAN LAN-
4 GUAGE.—The terms “Native American” and “Native
5 American language” have the meanings given those
6 terms in section 103 of the Native American Lan-
7 guages Act (25 U.S.C. 2902).

8 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
10 \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.

Passed the Senate December 19, 2022.

Attest:

Secretary.

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