

# Calendar No. 176

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 989

[Report No. 117-46]

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2021

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the  
following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on In-  
dian Affairs

DECEMBER 2, 2021

Reported by Mr. SCHATZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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## A BILL

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

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 American Lan-~~  
5 ~~guage Resource Center Act of 2021”.~~

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are to further the policies  
3 set forth in the Native American Languages Act (25  
4 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) by creating a national resource center  
5 and, through such national resource center and actions,  
6 to—

7 (1) preserve, protect, and promote the rights  
8 and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice,  
9 and develop Native American languages (as defined  
10 in section 103 of the Native American Languages  
11 Act (25 U.S.C. 2902));

12 (2) allow the United States to fulfill its trust  
13 responsibility to Native American communities and  
14 address the effects of past discrimination against  
15 Native American language speakers;

16 (3) support revitalization of Native American  
17 languages;

18 (4) encourage and support the use of Native  
19 American languages as a medium of instruction, in-  
20 cluding use as a medium of education in schools op-  
21 erated by Tribes, States, territories, the Federal  
22 Government, and Native American language edu-  
23 cational organizations;

24 (5) encourage and support the use and develop-  
25 ment of Native American languages as the medium

1 of instruction for a wide variety of age levels and  
2 academic content areas;

3 (6) support metrics aligned with the Native  
4 American language of instruction, including assess-  
5 ments, qualifications, and processes based on well-  
6 demonstrated best practices in Native American lan-  
7 guage medium education;

8 (7) identify—

9 (A) barriers to Native American language  
10 education and learning within Federal laws; and

11 (B) actions needed for alignment with the  
12 Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C.  
13 2901 et seq.);

14 (8) encourage and support elementary schools,  
15 secondary schools, and institutions of higher edu-  
16 cation to include Native American languages in the  
17 curriculum in the same manner as other world lan-  
18 guages, including through cooperative agreements  
19 and distance education; and to grant proficiency in  
20 Native American languages the same full academic  
21 credit as proficiency in other world languages;

22 (9) encourage and support the development of  
23 appropriate teacher preparation programming for  
24 the teaching of, and through, Native American lan-

1 guages, including appropriate alternative pathways  
2 to teacher certification;

3 (10) provide a resource base to provide infor-  
4 mation to Federal, Tribal, State, territory, and local  
5 governments and Native American educational orga-  
6 nizations to allow the spread of best practices in the  
7 use, practice, and development of Native American  
8 languages in Native American communities, includ-  
9 ing use in educational institutions;

10 (11) provide a resource base for the use of tech-  
11 nology in intensive community-, land-, and archive-  
12 based programs, as well as hybrid and collaborative  
13 programs in supporting the retention, use, develop-  
14 ment, and teaching of Native American languages by  
15 government and private entities;

16 (12) provide a developmental base from which  
17 interested Tribal colleges and universities and other  
18 Native American entities might develop fully func-  
19 tioning Native American language medium education  
20 systems that include associated preschool, elemen-  
21 tary school, secondary school, and adult education  
22 programs conducted through the medium of Native  
23 American languages;

24 (13) provide a means to further collaboration  
25 among formal government, institutional, and com-

1 munity-based Native American language programs,  
 2 resources, and research efforts with additional access  
 3 to international best practices in indigenous lan-  
 4 guage revitalization; and

5 (14) develop a support center system for Native  
 6 American language participants to gather and share  
 7 helpful information and experiences.

8 **SEC. 3. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER.**

9 Section 603 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 10 U.S.C. 1123) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
 12 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
 14 lowing:

15 “(b) NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CEN-  
 16 TER AUTHORIZED.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized  
 18 to make a grant to, or enter into a contract with,  
 19 an eligible entity for the purpose of—

20 “(A) establishing, strengthening, and oper-  
 21 ating a Native American language resource and  
 22 training center as described in paragraph (2);  
 23 and

24 “(B) staffing the center with individuals  
 25 who have high-level fluency in American Indian,

1 Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages  
2 and are experienced with Native American lan-  
3 guage education in preschool, elementary  
4 school, secondary school, adult education, and  
5 higher education programs.

6 “(2) PURPOSES OF CENTER.—The Native  
7 American language resource center established under  
8 paragraph (1) shall serve as a resource to—

9 “(A) improve the capacity to teach and  
10 learn Native American languages and further  
11 Native American language acquisition;

12 “(B) preserve, protect, and promote the  
13 rights and freedom of Native Americans to use,  
14 practice, and develop Native American lan-  
15 guages;

16 “(C) allow the United States to fulfill its  
17 trust responsibility to Native American commu-  
18 nities and address the effects of past discrimi-  
19 nation against Native American language  
20 speakers;

21 “(D) support revitalization of Native  
22 American languages;

23 “(E) encourage and support the use of Na-  
24 tive American languages as a medium of in-  
25 struction, including use as a medium of edu-

1 eation in schools operated by Tribes, States, the  
2 Federal Government, and Native American lan-  
3 guage educational organizations;

4 “(F) encourage and support the use and  
5 development of Native American languages as  
6 the medium of instruction for a wide variety of  
7 age levels and academic content areas;

8 “(G) support metrics aligned with the Na-  
9 tive American language of instruction, including  
10 assessments, qualifications, and processes based  
11 on well-demonstrated best practices in Native  
12 American language medium education;

13 “(H) identify barriers to Native American  
14 language education and learning within Federal  
15 laws and actions needed for alignment with the  
16 Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C.  
17 2901);

18 “(I) encourage and support elementary  
19 schools, secondary schools, and institutions of  
20 higher education to include Native American  
21 languages in the curriculum in the same man-  
22 ner as other world languages, including through  
23 cooperative agreements and distance education,  
24 and to grant proficiency in Native American

1 languages the same full academic credit as pro-  
2 ficiency in other world languages;

3 “(J) encourage and support the develop-  
4 ment of appropriate teacher preparation pro-  
5 gramming for the teaching of, and through, Na-  
6 tive American languages, including appropriate  
7 alternative pathways to teacher certification;

8 “(K) provide a resource base to provide in-  
9 formation to Federal, Tribal, State, and local  
10 governments and Native American educational  
11 organizations to allow the spread of best prac-  
12 tices in the use, practice, and development of  
13 Native American languages in Native American  
14 communities, including use in educational insti-  
15 tutions;

16 “(L) provide a resource base for the use of  
17 technology in intensive community-, land-, and  
18 archive-based programs, as well as hybrid and  
19 collaborative programs in supporting the reten-  
20 tion, use, development, and teaching of Native  
21 American languages by government and private  
22 entities;

23 “(M) support the acquisition of distance  
24 learning technologies and training for parents,  
25 students, teachers, and learning support staff;



1 including the compilation and curation of dig-  
2 ital libraries and other online resources in tar-  
3 get Native American languages, the develop-  
4 ment of distance learning curricula appropriate  
5 for preschool, elementary school, secondary  
6 school, adult education, and postsecondary edu-  
7 cation, the pedagogical training for teachers,  
8 and other efforts necessary to continue Native  
9 American language acquisition through distance  
10 learning;

11 “(N) provide a developmental base from  
12 which interested Tribal colleges and universities  
13 and other Native American entities might de-  
14 velop fully functioning Native American lan-  
15 guage medium education systems that include  
16 associated preschool, elementary school, sec-  
17 ondary school, and adult education programs  
18 conducted through the medium of Native Amer-  
19 ican languages;

20 “(O) provide a means to further collabora-  
21 tion among formal government, institutional,  
22 and community-based Native American lan-  
23 guage programs, resources, and research efforts  
24 with additional access to international best  
25 practices in indigenous language revitalization;

1           “(P) develop a support center system for  
2 Native American language participants to gath-  
3 er and share helpful information and experi-  
4 ences; and

5           “(Q) address any of the purposes of for-  
6 eign language centers included under this sec-  
7 tion if, in doing so, the Native American lan-  
8 guage resource center—

9           “(i) does so as a subsidiary activity;

10          “(ii) focuses benefits on Native Amer-  
11 icans living in Native American commu-  
12 nities, or closely tied to such communities;  
13 and

14          “(iii) ensures that one of the out-  
15 comes being strengthened through this  
16 subparagraph is the use of one or more  
17 Native American languages in a Native  
18 American community.

19          “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20          “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
21 ble entity’ means—

22          “(i) an institution of higher education;

23          “(ii) an entity within an institution of  
24 higher education with dedicated responsi-

1 bility for Native American language and  
2 culture education;

3 “(iii) a consortium of such institu-  
4 tions; or

5 “(iv) a consortium of such institutions  
6 and other entities with unique responsibil-  
7 ities for Native American languages.

8 “(B) NATIVE AMERICAN; NATIVE AMER-  
9 ICAN LANGUAGE.—The terms ‘Native Amer-  
10 ican’ and ‘Native American language’ have the  
11 meanings given those terms in section 103 of  
12 the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C.  
13 2902).

14 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
15 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
16 this subsection, \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.”;  
17 and

18 (3) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of  
19 subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by  
20 striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “this sec-  
21 tion”.

22 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

23 *This Act may be cited as the “Native American Lan-  
24 guage Resource Center Act of 2021”.*

1 **SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTERS.**

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

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

12             (1) *establishing, strengthening, and operating a*  
13 *Native American language resource center; and*

14             (2) *staffing the center with individuals with rel-*  
15 *evant expertise and experience, including staff who*  
16 *speak American Indian and Alaska Native languages*  
17 *and the Native Hawaiian language and have worked*  
18 *in language education in the American Indian and*  
19 *Alaska Native languages and the Native Hawaiian*  
20 *language in a preschool, elementary school, secondary*  
21 *school, adult education, or higher education program.*

22       (c) *AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.*—*The Native American*  
23 *language resource center established under subsection (b)*  
24 *shall carry out activities to—*

25             (1) *improve the capacity to teach and learn Na-*  
26 *tive American languages;*

1           (2) *further Native American language use and*  
2           *acquisition;*

3           (3) *preserve, protect, and promote the rights and*  
4           *freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and de-*  
5           *velop Native American languages in furtherance of—*

6                   (A) *the policies set forth in the Native*  
7           *American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et*  
8           *seq.); and*

9                   (B) *the United States trust responsibility to*  
10           *Native American communities;*

11           (4) *address the effects of past discrimination and*  
12           *ongoing inequities experienced by Native American*  
13           *language speakers;*

14           (5) *support the revitalization and reclamation of*  
15           *Native American languages; and*

16           (6) *support the use of Native American lan-*  
17           *guages as a medium of instruction for a wide variety*  
18           *of age levels, academic content areas, and types of*  
19           *schools, including Native American language medium*  
20           *education.*

21           (d) *ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Na-*  
22           *tive American language resource center established under*  
23           *subsection (b) may also carry out activities—*

24                   (1) *to encourage and support the use of Native*  
25           *American languages within educational systems in*

1        *the same manner as other world languages, including*  
2        *by encouraging State educational agencies, local edu-*  
3        *catinal agencies, and institutions of higher education*  
4        *to offer Native American language courses the same*  
5        *full academic credit as courses in other world lan-*  
6        *guages;*

7            (2) *to support the development, adoption, and*  
8        *use of educational outcome metrics aligned with the*  
9        *Native American language of instruction, including*  
10       *assessments, qualifications, and processes based on*  
11       *promising practices in Native American language*  
12       *medium education;*

13           (3) *to provide assistance to Native American*  
14       *language programs seeking Federal resources;*

15           (4) *to encourage and support teacher prepara-*  
16       *tion programs that prepare teachers to teach Native*  
17       *American languages and to use Native American lan-*  
18       *guages as a medium of instruction, including by dis-*  
19       *seminating promising practices and developing peda-*  
20       *gogical programming and through appropriate alter-*  
21       *native pathways to teacher certification;*

22           (5) *to provide information and resources—*

23                (A) *on promising practices in the use and*  
24        *revitalization of Native American languages in*

1           *Native American communities, including use in*  
2           *educational institutions; and*

3                     *(B) for the use of technology in school and*  
4           *community-based Native American language*  
5           *programs to support the retention, use, and*  
6           *teaching of Native American languages;*

7           *(6) to support the use of distance learning tech-*  
8           *nologies and training for parents, students, teachers,*  
9           *and learning support staff associated with Native*  
10          *American language programs, including—*

11                    *(A) the compilation and curation of digital*  
12           *libraries and other online resources for Native*  
13           *American languages, except that any materials*  
14           *collected by the center shall only be materials*  
15           *provided by a Native American language pro-*  
16           *gram or Native American community;*

17                    *(B) the development of distance learning*  
18           *curricula appropriate for preschool, elementary*  
19           *school, secondary school, adult education, and*  
20           *postsecondary education;*

21                    *(C) pedagogical training for Native Amer-*  
22           *ican language teachers; and*

23                    *(D) other efforts necessary to continue Na-*  
24           *tive American language acquisition through dis-*  
25           *tance learning;*

1           (7) *to provide technical assistance for Native*  
2 *American communities and school systems to develop*  
3 *Native American language medium education pro-*  
4 *grams in preschool, elementary school, secondary*  
5 *school, or adult education programs conducted*  
6 *through the medium of Native American languages;*

7           (8) *to support Native American language pro-*  
8 *grams and Native American communities in—*

9                   (A) *accessing international best practices,*  
10 *resources, and research in indigenous language*  
11 *revitalization; and*

12                   (B) *gathering and sharing technical assist-*  
13 *ance, promising practices, and experiences;*

14           (9) *for the operation of intensive programs, in-*  
15 *cluding summer institutes, to train Native American*  
16 *language speakers, to provide professional develop-*  
17 *ment, and to improve Native American language in-*  
18 *struction through preservice and in-service language*  
19 *training for teachers; and*

20           (10) *that otherwise support the Native American*  
21 *language resource center established under subsection*  
22 *(b) to carry out the activities required in subsection*  
23 *(c).*

24           (e) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*



1           (1) *ESEA DEFINITIONS.*—The terms “elementary  
2 school”, “local educational agency”, “secondary  
3 school”, and “State educational agency” have the  
4 meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Ele-  
5 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
6 U.S.C. 7801).

7           (2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.*—The term “eligible enti-  
8 ty” means—

9                   (A) an institution of higher education;

10                   (B) an entity within an institution of high-  
11 er education with dedicated expertise in Native  
12 American language and culture education; or

13                   (C) a consortium that includes 1 or more  
14 institutions of higher education or 1 or more en-  
15 tities described in subparagraph (B).

16           (3) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*—The  
17 term “institution of higher education” has the mean-  
18 ing given the term in section 101 of the Higher Edu-  
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

20           (4) *NATIVE AMERICAN; NATIVE AMERICAN LAN-*  
21 *GUAGE.*—The terms “Native American” and “Native  
22 American language” have the meanings given those  
23 terms in section 103 of the Native American Lan-  
24 guages Act (25 U.S.C. 2902).

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



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## **A BILL**

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