

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4155

To provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2023

Mr. COLE (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk
Indian veterans, and for other purposes.

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 2023”.

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—

1 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
2 paragraph (E); and

3 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
4 lowing new subparagraph (D):

5 “(D) INDIAN VETERANS HOUSING RENTAL
6 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

7 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
8 graph:

9 “(I) ELIGIBLE INDIAN VET-
10 ERAN.—The term ‘eligible Indian vet-
11 eran’ means an Indian veteran who
12 is—

13 “(aa) homeless or at risk of
14 homelessness; and

15 “(bb) living—

16 “(AA) on or near a res-
17 ervation; or

18 “(BB) in or near any
19 other Indian area.

20 “(II) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—

21 The term ‘eligible recipient’ means a
22 recipient eligible to receive a grant
23 under section 101 of the Native
24 American Housing Assistance and

1 Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25
2 U.S.C. 4111).

3 “(III) INDIAN; INDIAN AREA.—
4 The terms ‘Indian’ and ‘Indian area’
5 have the meanings given those terms
6 in section 4 of the Native American
7 Housing Assistance and Self-Deter-
8 mination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C.
9 4103).

10 “(IV) INDIAN VETERAN.—The
11 term ‘Indian veteran’ means an In-
12 dian who is a veteran.

13 “(V) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Pro-
14 gram’ means the Tribal HUD–VASH
15 program carried out under clause (ii).

16 “(VI) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—
17 The term ‘tribal organization’ has the
18 meaning given the term in section 4
19 of the Indian Self-Determination and
20 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
21 5304).

22 “(ii) PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—
23 The Secretary may use up to 5 percent of
24 the amounts made available for rental as-
25 sistance under this paragraph to carry out

1 a rental assistance and supported housing
2 program, to be known as the ‘Tribal
3 HUD–VASH program’, in conjunction
4 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by
5 awarding grants for the benefit of eligible
6 Indian veterans.

7 “(iii) MODEL.—

8 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
9 provided in subclause (II), the Sec-
10 retary shall model the Program on the
11 rental assistance and supported hous-
12 ing program authorized under sub-
13 paragraph (A) and applicable appro-
14 priations Acts, including administra-
15 tion in conjunction with the Secretary
16 of Veterans Affairs.

17 “(II) EXCEPTIONS.—

18 “(aa) SECRETARY OF HOUS-
19 ING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
20 MENT.—After consultation with
21 Indian tribes, eligible recipients,
22 and any other appropriate tribal
23 organizations, the Secretary may
24 make necessary and appropriate
25 modifications to facilitate the use

1 of the Program by eligible recipi-
2 ents to serve eligible Indian vet-
3 erans.

4 “(bb) SECRETARY OF VET-
5 ERANS AFFAIRS.—After consulta-
6 tion with Indian tribes, eligible
7 recipients, and any other appro-
8 priate tribal organizations, the
9 Secretary of Veterans Affairs
10 may make necessary and appro-
11 priate modifications to facilitate
12 the use of the Program by eligi-
13 ble recipients to serve eligible In-
14 dian veterans.

15 “(iv) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The
16 Secretary shall make amounts for rental
17 assistance and associated administrative
18 costs under the Program available in the
19 form of grants to eligible recipients.

20 “(v) FUNDING CRITERIA.—The Sec-
21 retary shall award grants under the Pro-
22 gram based on—

23 “(I) need;

24 “(II) administrative capacity; and

1 “(III) any other funding criteria
2 established by the Secretary in a no-
3 tice published in the Federal Register
4 after consulting with the Secretary of
5 Veterans Affairs.

6 “(vi) ADMINISTRATION.—Grants
7 awarded under the Program shall be ad-
8 ministered in accordance with the Native
9 American Housing Assistance and Self-De-
10 termination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101
11 et seq.), except that recipients shall—

12 “(I) submit to the Secretary, in a
13 manner prescribed by the Secretary,
14 reports on the utilization of rental as-
15 sistance provided under the Program;
16 and

17 “(II) provide to the Secretary in-
18 formation specified by the Secretary
19 to assess the effectiveness of the Pro-
20 gram in serving eligible Indian vet-
21 erans.

22 “(vii) CONSULTATION.—

23 “(I) GRANT RECIPIENTS; TRIBAL
24 ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary, in
25 coordination with the Secretary of

1 Veterans Affairs, shall consult with el-
2 igible recipients and any other appro-
3 priate tribal organization on the de-
4 sign of the Program to ensure the ef-
5 fective delivery of rental assistance
6 and supportive services to eligible In-
7 dian veterans under the Program.

8 “(II) INDIAN HEALTH SERV-
9 ICE.—The Director of the Indian
10 Health Service shall provide any as-
11 sistance requested by the Secretary or
12 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in
13 carrying out the Program.

14 “(viii) WAIVER.—

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

tion of rental assistance under the Program to eligible Indian veterans.

“(II) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not waive or specify alternative requirements under subclause (I) for any provision of law (including regulations) relating to labor standards or the environment.

“(ix) RENEWAL GRANTS.—The Secretary may—

“(I) set aside, from amounts made available for tenant-based rental assistance under this subsection and without regard to the amounts used for new grants under clause (ii), such amounts as may be necessary to award renewal grants to eligible recipients that received a grant under the Program in a previous year; and

“(II) specify criteria that an eligible recipient must satisfy to receive a renewal grant under subclause (I), including providing data on how the eligible recipient used the amounts of

1 any grant previously received under
2 the Program.

3 “(x) REPORTING.—Not later than 1
4 year after the date of the enactment of this
5 subparagraph, and every 5 years there-
6 after, the Secretary, in coordination with
7 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the
8 Director of the Indian Health Service,
9 shall—

10 “(I) conduct a review of the im-
11 plementation of the Program, includ-
12 ing any factors that may have limited
13 its success; and

14 “(II) submit a report describing
15 the results of the review under sub-
16 clause (II) to—

17 “(aa) the Committee on In-
18 dian Affairs, the Committee on
19 Banking, Housing, and Urban
20 Affairs, the Committee on Vet-
21 erans’ Affairs, and the Com-
22 mittee on Appropriations of the
23 Senate; and

24 “(bb) the Subcommittee for
25 Indian and Insular Affairs of the

1 Committee on Natural Resources,
2 the Committee on Financial
3 Services, the Committee on Vet-
4 erans' Affairs, and the Com-
5 mittee on Appropriations of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 “(xi) IMPACT ON FORMULA CURRENT
8 ASSISTED STOCK.—For a given fiscal
9 year's allocation formula of the Native
10 American Housing Block Grants program,
11 as authorized under title I of NAHASDA
12 (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), the number of
13 qualifying low-income housing dwelling
14 units under section 302(b)(1) of
15 NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4152(b)(1)) shall
16 not be reduced due to the placement of an
17 eligible Indian veteran assisted with
18 amounts provided under the Tribal HUD–
19 VASH Program within such qualifying
20 units.”.

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