

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9068

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to increase the capabilities of Tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to increase the capabilities of Tribal law enforcement agencies, 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 Capital for Op-
5 erations Promoting Safety Act” or the “Tribal COPS
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
9 grant program to award amounts to Indian Tribes in ac-

1 cordance with the formula developed pursuant to sub-
2 section (b) for the purposes described in subsection (d).

3 (b) FORMULA.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
5 develop the formula described in subsection (a), which
6 shall take into account the following:

7 (1) The size of the Tribal lands of the Indian
8 Tribe.

9 (2) The population of the Tribal lands of the
10 Indian Tribe.

11 (3) The average response time of the law en-
12 forcement agency of the Indian Tribe to an emer-
13 gency call.

14 (4) Such other factors as the Secretary deter-
15 mines appropriate.

16 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
17 this section, an Indian Tribe shall submit to the Secretary
18 an application in such form, at such time, and containing
19 such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

20 (d) USES.—Amounts awarded to an Indian Tribe
21 through a grant under this section shall be used to in-
22 crease the capabilities of the law enforcement agency of
23 such Indian Tribe, including by carrying out the following:

1 (1) Compensating law enforcement officers em-
2 ployed by the Indian Tribe, including by providing
3 retention bonuses to such officers.

4 (2) Providing training to law enforcement offi-
5 cers employed by the Indian Tribe.

6 (3) Providing housing stipends to law enforce-
7 ment officers employed by the Indian Tribe who
8 principally reside within the Tribal lands of such In-
9 dian Tribe.

10 (4) Procuring equipment, including vehicles, for
11 use by law enforcement officers employed by the In-
12 dian Tribe.

13 (5) Procuring, operating, and maintaining fa-
14 cilities for use by law enforcement officers employed
15 by the Indian Tribe.

16 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
18 \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

19 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
21 means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, na-
22 tion, pueblo, village, or community identified on the
23 list published by the Secretary under section 104 of
24 the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of
25 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the As-
3 sistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

4 (3) TRIBAL LANDS.—The term “Tribal lands”
5 means—

6 (A) all lands within the limits of an Indian
7 reservation; and

8 (B) any lands to which title is held—

9 (i) in trust by the United States for
10 the benefit of an Indian Tribe; or

11 (ii) by an Indian Tribe subject to re-
12 striction by the United States against
13 alienation and over which an Indian Tribe
14 exercises governmental power.

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