

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8954

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to comply with Federal standards established under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. COLE, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to comply with Federal standards established under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

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 “Strengthening Tribal
5 Families Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**

7 (a) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT RELATING TO
8 CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.—Section 422(b)(9) of the
9 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(9)) is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “(A)” after “(9)”;

2 (2) by striking “Act;” and inserting “Act of
3 1978; and”; and

4 (3) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(B) provide that the State shall comply with
6 all Federal standards established under the Indian
7 Child Welfare Act of 1978;”.

8 (b) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT RELATING TO PRO-
9 MOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES.—Section 432(a) of
10 such Act (42 U.S.C. 629b(a)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (9), by striking “and” at the
12 end;

13 (2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period
14 and inserting “; and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(11) provides that the State shall comply with
17 all Federal standards established under the Indian
18 Child Welfare Act of 1978.”.

19 (c) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—Section
20 422 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 622) is amended by adding
21 at the end the following:

22 “(d) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—The
23 Secretary shall biennially submit to the Committee on
24 Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the
25 Committee on Finance of the Senate a written report on

1 the reviews of child and family service programs under
 2 section 1123A, which shall include a detailed summary of
 3 the ways in which States are addressing the requirement
 4 in subsection (b)(9)(B) of this section.”.

5 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
 7 (b), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect
 8 on the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter that begins
 9 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (b) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION RE-
 11 QUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services
 12 determines that State legislation (other than legislation
 13 appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan
 14 developed pursuant to part B of title IV of the Social Se-
 15 curity Act to meet the additional requirements imposed
 16 by the amendments made by this Act, the plan shall not
 17 be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional re-
 18 quirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter
 19 beginning after the first regular session of the State legis-
 20 lature that begins after the date of the enactment of this
 21 Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if the State
 22 has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session
 23 is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State
 24 legislature.