

S 246

Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Jan 22, 2015

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 114-244.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 114-244. (Oct 14, 2016)

Law: 114-244 (Enacted Oct 14, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/246>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]

Party: Democratic • **State:** ND • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (26 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		May 14, 2015
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		May 14, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	May 11, 2015
Natural Resources Committee	House	Discharged from	Jul 12, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2751	Related bill	Jul 1, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the House on September 6, 2016. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act

(Sec. 3) This bill establishes the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children in the Office of Tribal Justice of the Department of Justice.

The commission must conduct a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs that serve Native children, including an evaluation of:

- the impact of concurrent jurisdiction on child welfare systems;
- barriers Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians face in using public and private grant resources;
- obstacles to nongovernmental financial support for programs benefitting Native children;
- issues relating to the validity and statistical significance of data on Native children;
- barriers to the development of sustainable, multidisciplinary programs designed to assist high-risk Native children and their families;
- cultural or socioeconomic challenges in communities of Native children;
- examples of successful program models and use of best practices in programs that serve children and families;
- barriers to interagency coordination; and
- the use of memoranda of agreement or interagency agreements to facilitate or improve agency coordination.

The commission must use the results of the study and analyses of existing federal data to: (1) develop plans for federal policy relating to Native children informed by the development of accurate child well-being measures; (2) recommend modifications and improvements to programs for Native children that integrate the cultural strengths of Native communities; (3) recommend improvements to the collection of data regarding Native children and the programs that serve them; and (4) identify models of successful programs.

When developing plans for federal policy, the commission may not consider or recommend recognition or establishment of a government-to-government relationship with an entity not recognized on or before the date of enactment of this bill.

The commission must report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for legislative and administrative action. The commission is terminated 90 days after the report is submitted.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 14, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 14, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-244.
- **Oct 3, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **Sep 29, 2016:** Resolving differences -- Senate actions: Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate bill by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S6286)
- **Sep 29, 2016:** Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate bill by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S6286)
- **Sep 29, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 13, 2016:** Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendment to Senate bill.
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Mrs. Radewagen moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5287-5289)
- **Sep 12, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 246.
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H5287-5289)
- **Sep 12, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5287-5289)
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 6, 2016:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 114-722.
- **Sep 6, 2016:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 560.
- **Jul 13, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 13, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jul 12, 2016:** Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Discharged.
- **Jul 12, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 18, 2016:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Jun 19, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S3381-3385; text as passed Senate: CR S3381-3383)
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S3381-3385; text as passed Senate: CR S3381-3383)
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Received in the House.
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- **May 11, 2015:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Reported by Senator Barrasso with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 114-39.
- **May 11, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 79.
- **Feb 4, 2015:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jan 22, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 22, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S422-423)