

## S 2717

DRIFT Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Native Americans

**Introduced:** Mar 17, 2016

**Current Status:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 686.

**Latest Action:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 686. (Nov 17, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2717>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** WY • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Mar 17, 2016
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 6, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Nov 17, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Native Americans

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 612	Related bill	<b>Dec 16, 2016:</b> Became Public Law No: 114-322.
114 S 2848	Related bill	<b>Sep 19, 2016:</b> Held at the desk.

## **Dam Repairs and Improvements for Tribes Act of 2016 or the DRIFT Act of 2016**

### **TITLE I--INDIAN DAM SAFETY DEFERRED MAINTENANCE FUNDS**

#### **Subtitle A--High-Hazard Fund**

(Sec. 101) This bill establishes the High-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund.

(Sec. 102) The Department of the Treasury must make deposits to this fund at least monthly until the fund is terminated at the end of FY2037.

#### **Subtitle B--Low-Hazard Fund**

(Sec. 111) This bill establishes the Low-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund.

(Sec. 112) The Department of the Treasury must make deposits to this fund at least monthly until the fund is terminated at the end of FY2037.

### **TITLE II--REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN INDIAN DAMS**

#### **Subtitle A--Program Establishment**

(Sec. 201) The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) must establish a program to address the deferred maintenance needs of Indian dams that create flood risks or other risks to safety, natural resources, or cultural resources and impede the management and efficiency of Indian dams.

(Sec. 202) To be eligible, a dam must be federally owned and included in the BIA's Safety of Dams program. The low hazard fund and high hazard fund must be used to pay for maintenance, repair, and replacement activities for dams classified under guidelines of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as low hazard and significant or high hazard, respectively.

(Sec. 203) The BIA must: (1) develop programmatic goals and prioritization criteria before expending funds; (2) prioritize dams that serve more than one tribe or highly populated Indian communities; (3) consult with landowners served by the dam before expending funds, except in emergencies; and (4) ensure that, each year, every dam in need of critical maintenance receives funding.

#### **Subtitle B--Management**

(Sec. 211) The Department of the Interior must establish in the BIA the Tribal Safety of Dams Committee to study the modernization of the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 and develop recommendations for legislation to improve that Act.

(Sec. 212) The BIA must: (1) request that Indian tribes report on dams on their land at least once every 180 days, and (2) report on each dam under BIA jurisdiction at least once each year.

(Sec. 213) The BIA must establish a flood plain management pilot program to provide, upon request, guidance to Indians tribes on best practices for the mitigation and prevention of floods. The program is funded through the funds for high- and low-hazard dams and is terminated four years after enactment of this bill.

(Sec. 214) This bill amends the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to revise the tribal partnership program, including to permit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide assistance for any activity relating to the feasibility, planning, design, or construction of a water resources development project.

(Sec. 215) This bill amends the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to extend to tribes the waiver of cost-sharing requirements for studies and projects.

### Actions Timeline

---

- **Nov 17, 2016:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Reported by Senator Barrasso with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 114-382.
- **Nov 17, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 686.
- **Apr 27, 2016:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Apr 13, 2016:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-326.
- **Mar 17, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 17, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1597-1598)