

S 1250

Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: May 25, 2017

Current Status: Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute

Latest Action: Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. (Apr 11, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1250>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		May 25, 2017
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		May 25, 2017
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Apr 10, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Markup By	Apr 11, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 5874	Related bill	Dec 28, 2018: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 872.
115 HR 2662	Identical bill	Jun 21, 2017: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2017

This bill amends the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a pay system for health care professionals employed by Indian Health Service (IHS) that is competitive with the salary of health care professionals employed by the Veterans Health Administration. HHS may establish incentives related to IHS employee recruitment and retention by providing relocation costs and rental assistance to employees under certain circumstances.

In addition, IHS must:

- centralize its credentialing system for licensed health professionals seeking to provide health care services at its facilities,
- establish standards to measure the timeliness of health care services in its facilities,
- implement an annual mandatory program that provides cultural training for certain IHS employees and contractors, and
- establish a demonstration project to provide additional staffing resources to understaffed IHS facilities.

Liability protections are given to certain health care professionals who volunteer at IHS facilities.

The bill expands the IHS student loan repayment program to include loan repayments for degrees related to health administration.

HHS may: (1) directly hire candidates to positions within IHS; and (2) remove, transfer, or demote certain IHS employees based on performance or misconduct.

HHS must establish a tribal consultation policy for IHS.

The bill establishes: (1) whistle blower protections for IHS employees, and (2) requirements concerning IHS fiscal accountability and transparency.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 11, 2018:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jun 13, 2017:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-89.
- **May 25, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 25, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.