

S 4529

Tribal Connect Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Aug 13, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (Aug 13, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4529>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Sep 10, 2020
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Sep 10, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 13, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 7973	Related bill	Aug 7, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Tribal Connect Act of 2020

This bill expands tribal access to the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support (E-rate) program, which provides discounted broadband internet access and telecommunications services to certain schools and libraries. It also establishes a pilot program to provide E-rate support to certain community-serving institutions.

First, a tribe may designate a tribal library or tribal library consortium, including a public-serving library of a tribal college or university, as a library or library consortium that is eligible for E-rate support. The tribe may make this designation regardless of whether the library or consortium is eligible for certain assistance from a state library administrative agency.

In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must establish a program to provide E-rate support to tribes for qualifying essential community-serving institutions (e.g., community centers). E-rate support may be provided to institutions designated by tribes if (1) the institutions are exclusively owned by the tribes; and (2) the institutions intend to deliver publicly available internet access to students, teachers, librarians, and community members.

Further, the bill requires the FCC to (1) provide technical assistance and training, (2) develop performance measures, and (3) review and submit annual reports.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 13, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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