

HR 644

Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Jan 17, 2019

Current Status: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 557.

Latest Action: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 557. (Dec 18, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/644>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Bishop, Rob [R-UT-1]

Party: Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Curtis, John R. [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Jan 25, 2019
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Jan 25, 2019
Rep. McAdams, Ben [D-UT-4]	D · UT		Feb 26, 2019
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Jun 20, 2019
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Jun 24, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Discharged from	Feb 12, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2	Related bill	Jul 20, 2020: Received in the Senate.
116 S 886	Related bill	Jun 15, 2020: Held at the desk.
116 S 1207	Related bill	Sep 9, 2019: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 182.

Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2020

This bill ratifies and modifies the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Agreement negotiated between the Navajo Nation, the United States, and Utah. The agreement gives the Navajo Nation the right to use water from sources located within Utah and adjacent to or encompassed within the boundaries of the Navajo Reservation, provided that depletions do not exceed a specified amount annually.

The Navajo water rights shall be held in trust by the United States for the use and benefit of the Navajo Nation and shall not be subject to forfeiture or abandonment.

The Navajo Nation shall have authority to allocate, distribute, and lease the water rights for any use on or off its reservation in accordance with the agreement.

The Department of the Interior shall establish and manage the Navajo Utah Settlement Trust Fund, with amounts available for withdrawal by the Navajo Nation for planning, designing, constructing, operating, maintaining, and replacing Navajo water development projects.

The bill also specifies waivers and releases that must be executed in order for the settlement to be binding and effective.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 18, 2020:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 116-673.
- **Dec 18, 2020:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 557.
- **Feb 12, 2020:** Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Discharged.
- **Feb 12, 2020:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Feb 12, 2020:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 26, 2019:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Feb 6, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- **Jan 17, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 17, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.