

S 3185

Tribal Cultural Areas Protection Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Nov 1, 2023

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (Nov 1, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3185>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 1, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 6147	Identical bill	Mar 1, 2024: Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry.

Tribal Cultural Areas Protection Act

This bill provides for the preservation of tribal cultural sites on public land by establishing the Tribal Cultural Areas System.

Within three years of this bill's enactment, the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture (USDA), as applicable, must

- establish criteria for recommending tribal cultural sites for designation as tribal cultural areas for inclusion in the system, using specified factors;
- solicit recommendations from tribes, state historic preservation officers, and tribal historic preservation officers;
- review designations in local land management plans to identify tribal cultural sites that meet established criteria;
- consider any other relevant information;
- consider and evaluate tribal cultural sites for designation as a tribal cultural area for inclusion in the system; and
- make recommendations to Congress.

The bill gives Congress the sole authority to (1) designate a tribal cultural site located on public land as a tribal cultural area for inclusion in the system, and (2) remove a tribal cultural area from the system. Congress must consider the recommendations of Interior and USDA when determining whether to make such a designation.

For each congressionally designated tribal cultural area, Interior or USDA must (1) establish a tribal commission to provide guidance and recommendations on the development of a management plan for the tribal cultural area, and (2) develop a comprehensive management plan.

The bill allows for self-determination contracts with tribes or tribal organizations to perform administrative or management functions within a tribal cultural area.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 1, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.