

S 4365

Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: May 16, 2024

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Dec 16, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/4365>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

Party: Republican • State: AK • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jul 30, 2024
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 30, 2024
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Dec 16, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Nov 19, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act

This bill expands support for public health veterinary services (e.g., disease surveillance or vaccination) in tribal communities to address zoonotic infectious diseases (i.e., diseases that spread between humans and animals).

Specifically, the bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Indian Health Service (IHS), to expend funds for public health veterinary services to prevent and control zoonotic disease infection and transmission in IHS areas where the risk for disease occurrence in humans and wildlife is endemic.

HHS may assign or deploy veterinary public health officers from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps to IHS areas.

Additionally, HHS must submit a biennial report to Congress on the use of funds, the assignment and deployment of veterinary public health officers from the USPHS Commissioned Corps, data related to the monitoring and disease surveillance of zoonotic diseases, and related services.

The bill also includes the IHS as a coordinating agency in the National One Health Framework. (This framework addresses zoonotic diseases and advances public health preparedness in the United States.)

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a feasibility study on the delivery of oral rabies vaccines to wildlife reservoir species that are connected to the transmission of rabies to tribal members living in Arctic regions of the United States. The study must (1) evaluate the efficacy of the oral rabies vaccines, and (2) make recommendations to improve the delivery of these vaccines.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 16, 2024:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 16, 2024:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 13, 2024:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 12, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 12, 2024:** Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote. (consideration: CR S6994-6996; text: CR S6995-6996)
- **Nov 18, 2024:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Reported by Senator Schatz with amendments. With written report No. 118-248.
- **Nov 18, 2024:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 563.
- **Jul 25, 2024:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably.
- **Jul 10, 2024:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 118-530.
- **May 16, 2024:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 16, 2024:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.