

## S 241

### Northern Montana Water Security Act of 2025

**Congress:** 119 (2025–2027, Current)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Native Americans

**Introduced:** Jan 24, 2025

**Current Status:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. (Mar 5, 2025)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/241>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]

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

## Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor               | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Sheehy, Tim [R-MT] | R · MT        |      | Jan 24, 2025 |

## Committee Activity

| Committee                | Chamber | Activity  | Date        |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| Indian Affairs Committee | Senate  | Markup By | Mar 5, 2025 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Native Americans

## Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship   | Last Action   |
|------------|----------------|---|
| 119 HR 907 | Identical bill | Jan 31, 2025: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. |

## **Northern Montana Water Security Act of 2025**

This bill modifies and ratifies a specified water rights settlement agreement entered into by the United States, Montana, and the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana (i.e., the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes). The bill also authorizes wastewater infrastructure on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana.

The bill requires the community's water rights to be held in trust for the benefit of the community and its allottees. The community must enact a tribal water code to regulate its water rights.

Additionally, the bill authorizes the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture (as applicable) to enter negotiations with Montana to exchange certain state lands for federal lands to be held in trust for the benefit of the community. The bill prohibits gaming on the land taken into trust.

The bill also

- establishes the Aaniiih Nakoda Settlement Trust Fund (and specified accounts) for purposes of carrying out this bill,
- establishes the Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Settlement Implementation Fund (and specified accounts) for purposes of carrying out this bill, and
- provides funding for specified accounts established by the bill.

The bill also authorizes Interior to plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and replace community water distribution and wastewater treatment facilities for the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 5, 2025:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
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