

S 620

Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Feb 18, 2025

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Dec 15, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/620>

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		Feb 18, 2025
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 18, 2025
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 18, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 29, 2025

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.

- Feb 18, 2025: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.
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