

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8829

To expedite new Tribal court assessments and base support funding, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2024

Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced
the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To expedite new Tribal court assessments and base support
funding, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Courts Support
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INDIAN TRIBAL JUSTICE ACT AMENDMENTS.**

7 The Indian Tribal Justice Act (25 U.S.C. 3601 et
8 seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in section 102 (25 U.S.C. 3612), by adding
10 at the end the following:

1 “(d) INITIAL ANNUAL SURVEY PRIORITIES.—In the
2 course of the initial annual survey for an Indian Tribe,
3 the Office may instruct the non-Federal entity, which may
4 be either a for-profit or nonprofit entity, which conditions
5 under subsection (b) to prioritize, expedite, or both.”; and

6 (2) in section 103 (25 U.S.C. 3613)—

7 (A) in subsection (c), by adding at the end
8 the following:

9 “(5) The Secretary shall have discretion to ad-
10 just the base support funding formula under this
11 subsection as needed to provide initial base support
12 funding to an Indian Tribe that has not received
13 funding.”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(d) INITIAL BASE SUPPORT FUNDING.—

16 “(1) The Secretary shall provide initial base
17 support funding on an expedited basis to an Indian
18 Tribe that has not previously received funding under
19 this section.

20 “(2) In determining the initial base support
21 funding for an Indian Tribe under this subsection,
22 the Secretary may consider the local conditions list-
23 ed in subsection (b) of section (102) and the factors
24 listed in subsection (c)(3) of this section, to the ex-
25 tent such factors are available for that Indian Tribe.

1 mented in the case of a Tribe seeking to estab-
2 lish a Tribal court.

3 (C) Federal funds that may be saved and
4 returned to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal
5 Priority Allocations due to a streamlined initial
6 court establishment assessment process.

7 (D) Whether and how the assessment proc-
8 ess may be customized to the particular judicial
9 jurisdictions and customs of each Indian Tribe.

10 (E) Whether and how a Indian Tribe may
11 continue accessing Tribal Justice Support fund-
12 ing and services while a pending Tribal court
13 assessment is being processed.

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