

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2099

To extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act  
of 2000.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2021

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-  
Determination Act of 2000.

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 “Secure Rural Schools  
5 Reauthorization Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COM-**  
2 **MUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.**

3 (a) DEFINITION OF FULL FUNDING AMOUNT.—Sec-  
4 tion 3(11) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community  
5 Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7102(11)) is  
6 amended by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E) and in-  
7 serting the following:

8 “(D) for fiscal year 2017, the amount that  
9 is equal to 95 percent of the full funding  
10 amount for fiscal year 2015;

11 “(E) for each of fiscal years 2018 through  
12 2020, the amount that is equal to 95 percent  
13 of the full funding amount for the preceding fis-  
14 cal year; and

15 “(F) for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal  
16 year thereafter, the amount that is equal to the  
17 full funding amount for fiscal year 2017.”.

18 (b) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES AND COUNTIES  
19 CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—

20 (1) SECURE PAYMENTS.—Section 101 of the  
21 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Deter-  
22 mination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended,  
23 in subsections (a) and (b), by striking “2015, 2017,  
24 2018, 2019, and 2020” each place it appears and  
25 inserting “2015 and 2017 through 2023”.

1           (2) DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE  
2           COUNTIES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural  
3           Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of  
4           2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking  
5           “2020” and inserting “2023”.

6           (c) PILOT PROGRAM TO STREAMLINE NOMINATION  
7           OF MEMBERS OF RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—  
8           Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community  
9           Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is  
10          amended by striking subsection (g) and inserting the fol-  
11          lowing:

12          “(g) RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINT-  
13          MENT PILOT PROGRAMS.—

14                 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

15                         “(A) APPLICABLE DESIGNEE.—The term  
16                         ‘applicable designee’ means the applicable re-  
17                         gional forester.

18                         “(B) NATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM.—The  
19                         term ‘national pilot program’ means the na-  
20                         tional pilot program established under para-  
21                         graph (4)(A).

22                         “(C) REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAM.—The  
23                         term ‘regional pilot program’ means the re-  
24                         gional pilot program established under para-  
25                         graph (3)(A).

1           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAMS.—  
2           In accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4), the Sec-  
3           retary concerned shall carry out 2 pilot programs to  
4           appoint members of resource advisory committees.

5           “(3) REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAM.—

6           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary con-  
7           cerned shall carry out a regional pilot program  
8           to allow an applicable designee to appoint mem-  
9           bers of resource advisory committees.

10          “(B) GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATION.—The re-  
11          gional pilot program shall only apply to re-  
12          source advisory committees chartered in—

13                 “(i) the State of Montana; and

14                 “(ii) the State of Arizona.

15          “(C) RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPLICABLE  
16          DESIGNEE.—

17                 “(i) REVIEW.—Before appointing a  
18                 member of a resource advisory committee  
19                 under the regional pilot program, an appli-  
20                 cable designee shall conduct the review and  
21                 analysis that would otherwise be conducted  
22                 for an appointment to a resource advisory  
23                 committee if the regional pilot program  
24                 was not in effect, including any review and

1 analysis with respect to civil rights and  
2 budgetary requirements.

3 “(ii) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in  
4 this paragraph relieves an applicable des-  
5 ignee from any requirement developed by  
6 the Secretary concerned for making an ap-  
7 pointment to a resource advisory com-  
8 mittee that is in effect on December 20,  
9 2018, including any requirement for adver-  
10 tising a vacancy.

11 “(4) NATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary con-  
13 cerned shall carry out a national pilot program  
14 to allow the Chief of the Forest Service or the  
15 Director of the Bureau of Land Management,  
16 as applicable, to submit to the Secretary con-  
17 cerned nominations of individuals for appoint-  
18 ment as members of resource advisory commit-  
19 tees.

20 “(B) APPOINTMENT.—Under the national  
21 pilot program, subject to subparagraph (C), not  
22 later than 30 days after the date on which a  
23 nomination is transmitted to the Secretary con-  
24 cerned under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
25 concerned shall—

1 “(i) appoint the nominee to the appli-  
2 cable resource advisory committee; or

3 “(ii) reject the nomination.

4 “(C) AUTOMATIC APPOINTMENT.—If the  
5 Secretary concerned does not act on a nomina-  
6 tion in accordance with subparagraph (B) by  
7 the date described in that subparagraph, the  
8 nominee shall be deemed appointed to the appli-  
9 cable resource advisory committee.

10 “(D) GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATION.—The na-  
11 tional pilot program shall apply to a resource  
12 advisory committee chartered in any State other  
13 than—

14 “(i) the State of Montana; or

15 “(ii) the State of Arizona.

16 “(E) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this  
17 paragraph relieves the Secretary concerned  
18 from any requirement relating to an appoint-  
19 ment to a resource advisory committee, includ-  
20 ing any requirement with respect to civil rights  
21 or advertising a vacancy.

22 “(5) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The  
23 authority provided under this subsection terminates  
24 on October 1, 2023.

1           “(6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later 180  
2 days after the date described in paragraph (5), the  
3 Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a re-  
4 port that includes—

5           “(A) with respect to appointments made  
6 under the regional pilot program compared to  
7 appointments made under the national pilot  
8 program, a description of the extent to which—

9           “(i) appointments were faster or slow-  
10 er; and

11           “(ii) the requirements described in  
12 paragraph (3)(C)(i) differ; and

13           “(B) a recommendation with respect to  
14 whether Congress should terminate, continue,  
15 modify, or expand the pilot programs.”.

16       (d) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SPE-  
17 CIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—

18           (1) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section  
19 205(a)(4) of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-  
20 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
21 7125(a)(4)) is amended by striking “December 20,  
22 2021” each place it appears and inserting “Decem-  
23 ber 20, 2023”.

24           (2) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 208  
25 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-

1 Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7128) is  
2 amended—

3 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “2022”  
4 and inserting “2025”; and

5 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “2023”  
6 and inserting “2026”.

7 (e) ACCESS TO BROADBAND AND OTHER TECH-  
8 NOLOGY.—Section 302(a) of the Secure Rural Schools and  
9 Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
10 7142(a)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the  
12 end;

13 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at  
14 the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(5) to provide or expand access to—

17 “(A) broadband telecommunications serv-  
18 ices at local schools; or

19 “(B) the technology and connectivity nec-  
20 essary for students to use a digital learning tool  
21 at or outside of a local school campus.”.

22 (f) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO EXPEND COUNTY  
23 FUNDS.—Section 304 of the Secure Rural Schools and  
24 Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
25 7144) is amended—



1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2022” and  
2 inserting “2025”; and

3 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2023” and  
4 inserting “2026”.

5 (g) AMOUNTS OBLIGATED BUT UNSPENT; PROHIBI-  
6 TION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Title III of the Secure Rural  
7 Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000  
8 (16 U.S.C. 7141 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating section 304 as section 305;  
10 and

11 (2) by inserting after section 303 the following:

12 **“SEC. 304. AMOUNTS OBLIGATED BUT UNSPENT; PROHIBI-**  
13 **TION ON USE OF FUNDS.**

14 “(a) AMOUNTS OBLIGATED BUT UNSPENT.—Any  
15 county funds that were obligated by the applicable partici-  
16 pating county before October 1, 2017, but are unspent on  
17 October 1, 2020—

18 “(1) may, at the option of the participating  
19 county, be deemed to have been reserved by the par-  
20 ticipating county on October 1, 2020, for expendi-  
21 ture in accordance with this title; and

22 “(2)(A) may be used by the participating coun-  
23 ty for any authorized use under section 302(a); and

24 “(B) on a determination by the participating  
25 county under subparagraph (A) to use the county

1 funds, shall be available for projects initiated after  
2 October 1, 2020, subject to section 305.

3 “(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Notwith-  
4 standing any other provision of law, effective beginning  
5 on the date of enactment of the Secure Rural Schools Re-  
6 authorization Act of 2021, no county funds made available  
7 under this title may be used by any participating county  
8 for any lobbying activity, regardless of the purpose for  
9 which the funds are obligated on or before that date.”.

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