

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7781

To provide that employees of tribally controlled schools are eligible to receive a pension under the Federal Employees Retirement System and to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2026

Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To provide that employees of tribally controlled schools are eligible to receive a pension under the Federal Employees Retirement System and to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan, 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 “Parity for Tribal Edu-
5 cators Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FERS PENSION AND TSP ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOY-**
7 **EES OF TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS.**

8 (a) FERS PENSION AND TSP ELIGIBILITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered employee shall be
2 deemed to be an employee (as that term is defined
3 in section 8401 of title 5, United States Code) for
4 purposes of subchapters II and III of chapter 84 of
5 such title.

6 (2) GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Bu-
7 reau of Indian Affairs shall pay the Government
8 contributions under sections 8423 and 8432 of such
9 title for the purposes of carrying out paragraph (1).

10 (b) OPT OUT.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a
11 covered employee may, under procedures established by
12 the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, elect
13 to not be covered under such subsection and not be
14 deemed an employee (as that term is defined under such
15 section 8401).

16 (c) COVERED EMPLOYEE DEFINED.—In this section,
17 the term “covered employee” means any employee of a
18 tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of
19 the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C.
20 2512)) that operates under—

21 (1) a contract under the Indian Self-Determina-
22 tion and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301
23 et seq.); or

- 1 (2) a grant under the Tribally Controlled
2 Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.).

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