

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3000

To amend title 38, United States Code, to include federally recognized tribal organizations in certain grant programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the several States and territories, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2008

Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to include federally recognized tribal organizations in certain grant programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the several States and territories, 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 “Native American Vet-
5 erans Access Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL**
2 **ORGANIZATIONS IN CERTAIN GRANT PRO-**
3 **GRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
4 **AFFAIRS FOR THE STATES AND TERRI-**
5 **TORIES.**

6 (a) TREATMENT OF TRIBAL ORGANIZATION HEALTH
7 FACILITIES AS STATE HOMES.—Section 8138 of title 38,
8 United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
10 section (f); and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
12 lowing new subsection (e):

13 “(e)(1) A health facility (or certain beds in a health
14 facility) of a tribal organization is treatable as a State
15 home under subsection (a) in accordance with the provi-
16 sions of that subsection.

17 “(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), the provi-
18 sions of this section shall apply to a health facility (or cer-
19 tain beds in such facility) treated as a State home under
20 subsection (a) by reason of this subsection to the same
21 extent as health facilities (or beds) treated as a State
22 home under subsection (a).

23 “(3) Subsection (f) shall not apply to the treatment
24 of health facilities (or certain beds in such facilities) of
25 tribal organizations as a State home under subsection (a).

1 “(4) In this subsection, the term ‘tribal organization’
 2 has the meaning given such term in section 3764(4) of
 3 this title.”.

4 (b) STATE HOME FACILITIES FOR DOMICILIARY,
 5 NURSING, AND OTHER CARE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 81 of such title is
 7 further amended—

8 (A) in section 8131, by adding at the end
 9 the following new paragraph:

10 “(5) The term ‘tribal organization’ has the
 11 meaning given such term in section 3764(4) of this
 12 title.”;

13 (B) in section 8132, by inserting “and
 14 tribal organizations” after “the several States”;
 15 and

16 (C) by inserting after section 8133 the fol-
 17 lowing new section:

18 **“§ 8133A. Tribal organizations**

19 “(a) The Secretary may make grants to tribal organi-
 20 zations under this subchapter in order to carry out the
 21 purposes of this subchapter.

22 “(b) Grants to tribal organizations under this section
 23 shall be made in the same manner, and under the same
 24 conditions, as grants made to the several States under the
 25 provisions of this subchapter, subject to such exceptions

1 as the Secretary shall prescribe for purposes of this sub-
 2 chapter to take into account the unique circumstances of
 3 tribal organizations.”.

4 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 5 tions at the beginning of chapter 81 of such title is
 6 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 7 tion 8133 the following new item:

“8133A. Tribal organizations.”.

8 (c) JOB COUNSELING, TRAINING, AND PLACEMENT
 9 SERVICES FOR VETERANS.—Section 4101 of such title is
 10 amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (6), by inserting “tribal orga-
 12 nizations,” after “to the extent determined necessary
 13 and feasible,”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
 15 paragraph:

16 “(9) The term ‘tribal organization’ has the meaning
 17 given such term in section 3764(4) of this title.”.

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