



Harvard Model Congress

Boston 2024

THE HOUSING CRISIS

UPDATE

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Since the summer of 2023, policy regarding housing and community development, and in turn the housing crisis, has not been a priority for the 118th Congress of the United States and has remained largely stagnant. Since the 118th Congress of the United States has begun session, 125 total bills regarding housing or community development have been introduced. Of the 125 bills introduced, only two have seen any progress towards being enacted into law.

The first of these two is S 70, or the Tribal Trust and Land Homeownership Act of 2023. Sponsored by Sen. John Thune (R-SD), this bill would require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines. This bill hopes to be able to expedite the mortgage process for persons on reservations to be able to obtain mortgages, aiding the housing crisis, by increasing access to and efficiency of mortgages and home ownership. S 70 was originally introduced on January 25th, 2023, then passed the Senate unanimously on July 18th, 2023 and now moves to the House for consideration.

The other notable piece of legislation is S Res 479. This is a resolution designating November 2023 as “National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month.” Sponsored by Joe Manchin (D-WV), S. Res. 479 was both introduced and agreed to on November 29th, 2023. The purpose of this bill is to designate November as National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month, as well as to support, applaud and encourage businesses, government agencies, organizations, educators, and volunteers to continue to combat youth homelessness and to raise awareness and resources towards the issue. Hopefully, this bill will be able to further support the current approximate 4.2 million youth and young adults currently experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

While no major bills or collaboration have come from either side of the aisle since the summer of 2023 towards working to solve the Housing Crisis, both S 70 and S Res 479 work towards aiding groups at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

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