

HOUSE BILL NO. 27

INTRODUCED BY N. BIXBY

BY REQUEST OF THE STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE PERSON WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED IN TRADITIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS PRACTICES TO OFFER INDIAN INMATES IN STATE INSTITUTIONS SPIRITUAL SUPPORT ON THE SAME BASIS AS A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED PERSON IS PROVIDED TO SUPPORT THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF NON-INDIAN INMATES WHO PRACTICE OTHER RELIGIONS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Native American traditionalist -- support for inmates.** The department of corrections shall provide at least one person who is knowledgeable and experienced in traditional Native American religious practices to offer Indian inmates in state institutions spiritual support on the same basis as a knowledgeable and experienced person is provided to support the spiritual needs of non-Indian inmates who practice other religions.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell band of Chippewa.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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