

HOUSE BILL NO. 668
INTRODUCED BY S. GALLUS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT STAFF AND INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS, PROGRAM RECIPIENTS, PROVIDERS, AND THE PUBLIC."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Standards for communication.** (1) The department shall develop, by administrative rule, standards for the professional conduct of all employees for communication with Indian tribal governments, recipients of departmental services, providers of services under contract with the department, and the general public.

(2) Standards must be developed regarding how department employees:

(a) solicit, incorporate, or respond to information received on any contemplated changes in services or benefits in department programs;

(b) proceed in contract negotiations, department audits of providers or services, and quality management activities; and

(c) are required to conduct themselves in an open, fair, objective, and impartial manner.

(3) Standards must include a requirement that all employees receive training on the standards during the first 90 days of employment or, for those already employed, within 6 months of the adoption of the rules.

(4) The rules must describe how the department will implement oversight and evaluation of employees to ensure that training is completed and that all employees follow standards of professional conduct in communication on an ongoing basis.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, part 22, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 15, part 22, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. 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.

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