



PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Jen Gross
Daniel Salomon
Jason Small
Frank Smith

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jade Bahr
Alan Doane
Casey Knudsen
Rae Peppers
Joe Read
Sharon Stewart-Peregoy

COMMITTEE STAFF

Hope Stockwell - Research Analyst
Laura Sankey - Attorney
Laura Sherley - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

March 05, 2020
Capitol Room 137

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://legmt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SEN. JASON SMALL, Chair (R)
REP. RAE PEPPERS, Vice Chair (D)

REP. JADE BAHR (D)
REP. ALAN DOANE (R)
REP. JOE READ (R)
REP. SHARON STEWART PEREGOY (D)

SEN. JEN GROSS (D)
SEN. DANIEL SALOMON (R)
SEN. FRANK SMITH (D)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

REP. CASEY KNUDSEN (R)

COMMITTEE STAFF PRESENT:

HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst

LAURA SANKEY, Attorney

LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

AGENDA ([ATTACHMENT 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([ATTACHMENT 2](#))

COMMITTEE BUSINESS SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER -- ROLL CALL

13:00:11 Sen. Small called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The secretary took roll ([Attachment 3](#))

Opening prayer

13:01:11 Rep. Read gave the opening prayer.

13:02:09 Sen. Small held a moment of silence for Rep. Mortensen.

Administrative Matters

13:02:47 Ms. Stockwell

HJ 10 STUDY OF BARRIERS TO AMERICAN INDIAN VOTING IN MONTANA

Using plus codes to denote locations of residence

13:04:47 Norbert Nez, IT Manager, Navajo Nation

13:12:06 Drew Cooper, Deputy Director, Rural Utah Project ([Exhibit 1](#))

Committee questions

13:27:36 Rep. Bahr asked Mr. Cooper if there have been any issues with the use of plus codes.

13:30:15 Sen. Gross asked Mr. Cooper if plus codes have been used in Utah elections.

13:31:05 Sen. Gross asked Mr. Cooper if any policy changes had to happen between reservations and the state to implement the use of plus codes.

13:33:32 Rep. Peppers asked Mr. Cooper to comment on plus codes used in state-federal elections.

13:35:14 Rep. Peppers commented on the miscommunication of residential addressing on and off state reservations.

13:36:15 Sen. Small asked Mr. Nez if the Navajo Nation has an addressing office.

13:38:14 Sen. Small asked Mr. Cooper if implementing plus codes is a cost-free process.

13:39:36 Rep. Peppers asked Mr. Cooper to comment on the costs associated with the implementation of plus codes.

13:41:27 Rep. Peppers commented on reservation residential addressing and postal delivery.

13:41:59 Rep. Read commented on a plus codes app available for street address to plus code conversion.

13:43:27 Sen. Gross asked Mr. Cooper how constituents can find their residential plus code if they are located outside of cell phone service.

Montana IDs and physical address requirements

13:47:54 Michele Snowberger, general counsel, Montana Motor Vehicle Division ([Exhibit 2](#))

Adding tribal identification to list of acceptable IDs on sample voter registration form

13:59:23 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office (SOS) ([Exhibit 3](#))

Committee questions

14:01:05 Sen. Gross asked Mr. Corson if the new voter registration form listing tribal IDs as a government recognized ID has been rolled out to the public.

14:01:22 Sen. Gross asked Mr. Corson how the SOS updates the voter registration form.

14:01:55 Sen. Gross asked Mr. Corson if the SOS plans to do any outreach to state tribes and DMV offices to alert them to the voter registration form change.

14:02:50 Rep. Bahr asked Mr. Corson for clarification on the process of submitting a tribal ID with the voter registration form.

14:05:08 Rep. Doane asked Ms. Snowberger to comment on the exemption process listed on the voter registration form (see Exhibit 2).

14:08:49 Rep. Doane asked Ms. Snowberger what percentage of people who go through the exemption process are rejected.

14:10:40 Sen. Gross asked Ms. Snowberger if her office is collecting data on the number of tribal members who are REAL ID compliant.

14:11:38 Sen. Small asked Ms. Snowberger if tribal IDs are recognized as an official form of government identification for travel.

14:12:28 Sen. Small asked Ms. Snowberger if there are alternative forms of tribal IDs.

14:12:52 Sen. Small asked Ms. Snowberger how long it takes to obtain a tribal ID.

14:14:46 Rep. Read asked Ms. Snowberger if the Known Traveler ID will be considered compliant with REAL ID standards.

14:15:40 Rep. Stewart Peregoy joined the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

14:16:09 Rep. Peppers asked Ms. Snowberger to discuss how common law marriage is recognized to obtain a REAL ID.

14:17:23 Rep. Bahr asked Ms. Snowberger how a REAL ID number is verified.

14:18:55 Rep. Bahr asked Mr. Corson if a tribal ID number could be submitted on a voter registration form rather than sending in a copy of the ID.

14:20:50 Rep. Stewart Peregoy commented on the membership process of sovereign nations and possible issues that could arise verifying tribal IDs.

14:22:00 Sen. Smith asked Ms. Snowberger how widely tribal IDs are accepted.

14:25:08 Sen. Smith asked Ms. Snowberger to comment on common law marriage and if it is recognized on reservations.

Public comment

14:26:50 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of County Clerks and Recorders and Election Administrators/Montana Association of Counties

14:27:26 Ta'jin Perez, Montana Native Vote ([Exhibit 4](#))

Committee questions

14:29:35 Sen. Gross asked Mr. Perez if his organization will be implementing any projects like the Rural Utah Project.

BREAK

SB 40 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

14:49:01 Michael Sweeney, Chief Data Officer, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
([Exhibit 5](#))

Public comment

None

Committee questions

14:57:12 Sen. Salomon asked if OPI has the funding it needs to continue to implement the student photo repository.
14:58:33 Sen. Salomon asked Mr. Sweeney to comment on the pilot opt-in process.
14:59:11 Sen. Salomon asked if OPI has been able to interface the student photo repository with all state counties and if the Department of Justice has been able to utilize the student photo repository.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MISSING PERSONS LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTATION

15:03:03 Melissa Schlichting, Assistant Attorney General ([Exhibit 6](#))
15:13:46 Tina Chamberlain, Looping In Native Communities Coordinator
15:22:15 Misty LaPlant, Missing Persons Specialist ([Exhibit 7](#))

Committee questions

15:30:32 Rep. Doane asked Ms. Schlichting if the Missing Persons Clearinghouse is for all people, and if the phone application will be limited to American Indians who are missing.
15:31:36 Rep. Doane asked Ms. Schlichting if a phone application will be developed for all missing persons.
15:32:13 Sen. Salomon asked Ms. LaPlant to comment on the number of missing persons in the state.
15:34:05 Sen. Salomon asked Ms. LaPlant to differentiate the definitions of runaway and long-term regarding missing persons.
15:34:37 Sen. Salomon asked Ms. Chamberlain if communication issues between law enforcement and reservations are different for each reservation or a statewide issue.
15:35:38 Sen. Salomon asked Ms. Chamberlain if there is a plan to improve the communication issues between law enforcement and reservations.
15:37:04 Sen. Gross asked Ms. Chamberlain to comment on how information is shared between law enforcement and reservations.
15:39:13 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Ms. Schlichting if the intent of SB 312 (2019) was to create a database separate from the Missing Persons Clearinghouse.
15:41:38 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Ms. Schlichting what the perceived timeline is to create the additional database.
15:43:19 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Ms. Schlichting if the additional database will meet the legislative intent of HB 54 (2019). Ms. Chamberlain also responded to the question.
15:46:55 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Ms. Schlichting to comment on and clarify the recommendations from the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force (see Exhibit 6).
15:49:08 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Ms. Schlichting what the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force's plan is to review the community needs for expanded law enforcement.

- 15:50:37 Rep. Peppers asked Ms. Schlichting what the committee or legislature can do to move forward on the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force's recommendations (see Exhibit 6).
- 15:57:56 Rep. Read asked Ms. Schlichting to comment on the community involvement in missing persons.
- 16:02:06 Rep. Stewart Peregoy recommended that the School Administrators Association, Montana School Board Association, Montana High School Association, Montana Officials Association be included in the workings of the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force.
- 16:06:17 Rep. Peppers commented on the importance of training the public on the workings of the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force.

Public comment

- 16:08:06 Paulette Not Afraid, Crow Tribe

Committee questions

- 16:19:46 Sen. Smith asked Ms. Schlichting if local missing person task forces can be trained to contact law enforcement first when they hear of a new missing person case in their community.
- 16:22:02 Sen. Gross commented on the legislative intent of HB 54 (2019).
- 16:23:31 Sen. Small commented on the legislature's ability to work with or request action from federal law enforcement.
- 16:24:57 Rep. Doane commented on the history of law enforcement jurisdictional issues on reservations and the Missing Persons Clearinghouse phone application.

BREAK

INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- 16:40:52 Raymond "Jazz" Parker, general manager, Northern Winz Casino

Public comment

- 17:01:11 Kaci Walette, Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board Member
- 17:02:13 Gloria Waters, Northern Cheyenne Charging Horse Casino Gaming Manager
- 17:04:17 Yulberton Sandcrane, Northern Cheyenne Charging Horse Casino Gaming Commission
- 17:06:08 Mina Kipp, Blackfeet Country Gaming Administrator
- 17:06:26 Mr. Parker

Committee questions

- 17:08:05 Sen. Small asked Ms. Schlichting what the difference is between Class I and Class III gaming.
- 17:10:14 Sen. Small asked Ms. Schlichting to comment on the process of changing reservation gaming compacts.
- 17:11:37 Sen. Small asked Ms. Schlichting who has the authority to negotiate gaming compacts between tribes and state entities.
- 17:13:09 Rep. Read asked Mr. Parker why the Blackfeet and CSKT tribes do not have gaming compacts.
- 17:13:49 Rep. Read commented on the unification of tribes and gaming compacts.
- 17:15:44 Sen. Smith commented on gambling on reservations.

17:16:53

Rep. Doane asked Sen. Smith when the state became involved in the gambling issue. The question was redirected to Ms. Schlichting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER NOT CONTAINED IN THIS AGENDA AND THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE STRC

None

RECESS

17:20:08

Sen. Small recessed the meeting at 5:20 p.m. to reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on March 6, 2020, in Helena Capitol Room 137.

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