

May 08, 2020
9:00 AM
Zoom - Helena

RECONVENED

09:00:42

Updates related to COVID - 19 response

- 09:00:50 Jason Smith, Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and Lesa Evers, tribal relations manager, Department of Public Health and Human Services, gave an overview.
- 09:14:33 Mary Craige, Bureau Chief, Census & Economic Information Center, Department of Commerce discussed the impacts of COVID - 19 on Census work.

Questions by the committee

- 09:21:42 Sen. Small asked Ms. Craige for clarification regarding the statewide Census response rate thus far.

Public comment

- 09:26:57 Ta'jin Perez, Field Manager for Western Native Voice
- 09:28:49 Kim McKeehan, Little Shell Tribal Council

Study of improving communication between the state and tribes in child neglect cases

- 09:30:35 COVID - 19 and CPS: Marti Vining, Administrator, Children and Family Services Division, DPHHS gave an overview.
- 09:35:50 Ms. Vining discussed screening of applications for the ICWA Coordinator position at CFSD.
- 09:36:45 Ms. Stockwell discussed how qualified expert witness are selected in ICWA cases.

Public comment

- 09:40:34 Michaelynn Hawk, Indians People Action

Questions by the committee

- 09:47:51 Sen. Doane asked Ms. Vining about the number of reports of child abuse and how much those numbers were down because of COVID - 19.

HJ 10 study of barriers to American Indian voting in Montana

09:50:20 Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Secretary of States Office gave an overview regarding COVID - 19 and mail ballot election implementation as well as incorporating plus codes into the voter registration database

Public comment

09:59:59 Rose Hanser
10:01:22 John Old Elk, Western Native Voice
10:04:27 Moana Vercoe, Indian Peoples Action

Questions by the committee

10:10:56 Sen. Small asked Mr. Corson which geo-locator was best to use.
10:13:20 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Mr. Corson about an issue brought up by the CKST Council regarding tribal ID's and the issues that have risen regarding using them to vote.

Public comment on any matter under the jurisdiction of the STRC but not on this agenda

10:18:36 Jason Moore, Montana Co-op
10:21:45 Patrick Yawakie

Other Business Instructions to Staff

10:26:23 Sen. Small and Rep. Stewart Peregoy discussed tribal livestock producers and sending out a letter from the committee in support.
10:32:24 Sen. Small discussed having staff draft up some of the proposals discussed during the meeting/
10:33:02 Ms. Stockwell reviewed the concepts related to runaway youth and motor carrier services.
10:33:35 Rep. Read discussed the value-added producer grant program from the USDA and efforts locally to create a slaughterhouse for custom meat.
10:36:36 Rep. Stewart Peregoy responded.
10:38:24 Sen. Smith talked about discussions of portable slaughterhouses.
10:38:48 Ms. Stockwell asked for clarification on what draft legislation the STRC would like to review at its next meeting.
10:40:09 Sen. Small asked Ms. Stockwell to continue with the graduation proposal for runaway youth.
10:41:20 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked to take a further look at the ability for minors to consent to shelter.
10:42:17 Ms. Stockwell said at its next meeting the STRC could invite speakers from other states to discuss their shelter-related laws. Sen. Small agreed.
10:42:54 Ms. Stockwell reviewed the draft letter to the editor the STRC discussed with the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council asking the public to comply with tribally-enacted COVID-19 restrictions.
10:44:45 Rep. Stewart Peregoy discussed the reference to sovereign nations.
10:45:25 Rep. Doane discussed the travel-related language and what roadways it refers to. Sen. Small responded.
10:46:44 Rep. Stewart Peregoy
10:47:43 Sen. Small
10:48:53 Rep. Peppers
10:50:11 Sen. Small
10:50:20 Rep. Doane

10:51:50 Rep. Stewart Peregoy
10:52:40 Sen. Small
10:52:51 Rep. Doane
10:53:33 Sen. Smith
10:54:17 Sen. Small
10:54:36 Sen. Smith
10:54:41 Rep. Peppers
10:54:42 Rep. Stewart Peregoy
10:54:52 Rep. Doane
10:55:06 Sen. Small

Motion

10:55:06 Sen. Small called for a roll call vote on sending out the letter asking the public to comply with tribal COVID - 19 restrictions. 7 committee members voted yes, and 1 member voted no - Rep. Knudsen and Sen. Gross were absent.

10:56:35 Ms. Stockwell said she would communicate with Rep. Knudsen and Sen. Gross to see if they wanted their names included on the letter.

10:57:04 Ms. Stockwell asked for more direction on the legislative recommendations from the Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force.

10:57:50 Rep. Peppers asked for recommendation #1, creation of missing persons response teams, to be drafted.

10:58:22 Ms. Stockwell discussed the timeframe for reviewing the drafts and taking public comment before the end of the interim.

10:59:24 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked about the next committee meeting date.

10:59:38 Ms. Stockwell said it is scheduled for June 24-26 but it's unclear whether the planned visits with the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council and Fort Peck Executive Board would occur in person or via Zoom.

11:01:13 Sen. Small asked that the committee be able to communicate other bill draft requests to Ms. Stockwell over the next week or two.

11:02:20 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Ms. Stockwell to reach out to the tribal governments regarding their COVID-19 restrictions to determine whether the next meeting will be in person or via Zoom.

11:03:17 Sen. Small called for additional questions or actions.

ADJOURNMENT

11:04:21