



State-Tribal Relations Committee

67th Montana Legislature

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TBD, Secretary

FINAL AGENDA (updated 1/11/22)

State-Tribal Relations Committee (STRC)

January 13-14, 2022 Capitol Room 102 and Zoom

In the heat of the tightly structured, 90-day session, legislators often identify issues they want to study in more depth. The interim offers you a more measured opportunity to research, meet with subject-matter experts, and listen to the public's perspectives on critical and complex issues. It allows you to define problems, explore alternatives, seek solutions, and propose and test ideas.

"Life After Sine Die"

The legislature finds and declares that:

...(3) the best interests of Montana Indian tribes will be served by engaging in government-to-government relationships designed to recognize the rights, duties, and privileges of full citizenship that Indians are entitled to as citizens of this state;

...(8) the state and the tribes working together in a government-to-government relationship...for the benefit of Indian and non-Indian residents will promote...enduring good will...

90-11-101, MCA

NOTE: Agenda item times are approximate. Some items may take more or less time than is allotted.

Thursday, January 13

- 1:30 p.m. Call to order; roll call; opening prayer and welcome – Chairman Running Wolf
- 1:40 Indian Law and Treaty basics and Committee Q&A – Monte Mills, Professor and Director, Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic, University of Montana; Dr. Heather Cahoon, Director, American Indian Governance and Policy Institute, University of Montana
- 2:30 Voting access study – alternative/satellite election offices and places of deposit
 - Indian voting rights background; *Wandering Medicine* – Mr. Mills
 - Review HJ 10 final report, HB 613, and 2021 election-related legislation – Pad
 - Tribal perspectives – Jade Sooktis, voting access advocate; Jacqueline De Leon, Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
 - County perspectives – Commissioner Ed Joiner and Joan Duffield, Clerk and Recorder, Rosebud County; Dulcie Bear Don't Walk, Election Administrator, Big Horn County
 - Public Comment
 - Questions/discussion/next steps

- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 Fee-to-Trust study
- DOR info on usage of 15-6-230 (temporary tribal property tax exemption) and implementation of SB 214 – Robin Rude and Eric Dale, Property Assessment Division
 - CSKT perspective – Jordan Thompson, Deputy Executive Officer; Mark Couture, Lands Department Head
 - Lake County perspective – Lake County Commission Chairman Gail Decker
 - BIA presentation on fee-to-trust conversion process
 - Bryan Mercier, Northwest Regional Director
 - Richard Ferguson, Acting Regional Realty Officer, Northwest Region
 - Susan Messerly, Rocky Mountain Regional Director
 - Jodi Camrud, Deputy Regional Director – Trust Services, Rocky Mountain Region
 - Leslie Shakespeare, Acting Deputy Regional Director – Indian Services, Rocky Mountain Region
 - Dawn Old Elk, Realty Specialist, Rocky Mountain Region
 - Public Comment
 - Questions/discussion/next steps
- 5:00 Postsecondary education updates – Angela McLean, Director American Indian and Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, Montana University System
- Grow Your Own
 - Credit transfer/ Common Course Numbering
 - Tribal College HiSET

5:30 Recess for the day

Friday, January 14

- 8:00 a.m. Reconvene
- 8:05 Report/updates from Director of Indian Affairs Misty Kuhl
- 8:20 COVID-related funding and tribal governments
- COVID-related federal funding directly to tribes – Katy Callon, LFD
 - ARPA update on state-directed funds – Scott Mendenhall, ARPA Program Director, Governor's Office
- 8:45 MCEP (formerly TSEP) overview and tribal government applications – Renee Lemon, Administrator, Community Development Division, Montana Department of Commerce
- 9:00 Decennial report pursuant 90-1-105(7), MCA
- Background – Pad
 - Current status/perspectives – Maria Valandra, Office of Indian Economic Development, and Mary Craigle, Research & Information Services, Montana Department of Commerce; Cheryl Reevis, Blackfoot Tribe and STED Commission; Robert "Tino" Sonora, Associate Director, Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at UM
 - Public Comment
 - Questions/discussion/next steps

- 9:30 Break
- 9:45 IEFA litigation update – Jameson/Laura, LSD Staff Attorney
- 9:55 Introduction of Matthew Bell, Native Language Immersion and Culture Specialist, and Carrie Gopher, American Indian Achievement Director, at the Office of Public Instruction – Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen
- 10:00 Indian Language programs study update from the Education Interim Budget Committee (EIBC) – Chairman Bedey and Rep. Windy Boy
- 10:15 Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission update – Rachel Weiss, Staff
- 10:30 Missing Indigenous Persons Review Commission (HB 35) update – Alan Doane, Legislative Liaison, Montana DOJ
- 10:45 Recreational marijuana (HB 701) implementation update – Erin Sullivan, Economic Affairs Interim Committee Staff
- 11:00 Revised public library standards and future opportunities for tribal college libraries – Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
- 11:10 Public comment on any topic within STRC's jurisdiction
- 11:30 Committee work session – review/modify/adopt work plan; schedule next meetings
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn

Please note:

- All meeting materials are available on the STRC website at <https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/strc/>
- To offer public comment via Zoom during the meeting, please submit the [online form for remote participation](#) by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12. You will receive an email with the login information by midnight the night before the meeting. At the time specified on the agenda for public comment, the presiding officer will call for public comment from people attending in person and people attending via Zoom. The committee may be slightly ahead of or behind the time scheduled for public comment on the agenda.
- Written public comment may be submitted either through the [online form for written comment](#) or by sending the comments to Pad McCracken, P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.
- Public comment provided in person at a committee meeting is a public record that is recorded, archived, and available on the Internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a committee meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the committee meeting.
- The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Jessica James at 406-444-3267 or jessica.james@mt.gov as soon as possible before the meeting date.