

State-Tribal Relations Committee

Study Assignment

The State-Tribal Relations Study Committee selected its study topics for the 2005 Interim at two organizational meetings held in Pierre during the Legislative Session on February 28 and March 21, 2005. The committee decided to address issues related to corrections and the makeup of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, economic development, education and technical training, and updates and testimony on child placement issues. The committee decided to hold at least one meeting on one of South Dakota's Indian reservations.

Summary of Interim

The State-Tribal Relations Study Committee is an ongoing interim committee that was created in statute (SDCL 2-6-20) in 1993 as a part of the state's reconciliation efforts. The committee, which generally does not propose legislation, provides a forum within state government for discussion by Indians and non-Indians of issues affecting the Native American community. The committee also serves as a way of familiarizing legislators with such issues.

The committee held two organizational meetings in the Capitol in Pierre on February 28 and March 21, 2005, with the primary task of selecting a chair and vice chair for the 2005-2006 interims and selecting study topics for the 2005 Interim. Unlike other interim committees, which are temporary and are established to study specific issues, the State-Tribal Relations Committee is ongoing and selects its own study topics at the beginning of the interim. Committee members, who are appointed for two-year terms, also select their own chair and vice chair. Senator Stan Adelstein, Chair, and Representative Paul Valandra, Vice Chair, were selected for those positions for the 2005-2006 Interims. As noted above, the committee at the organizational meetings chose to study issues related to corrections, the makeup of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, economic development, education and technical training, and updates and testimony on child placement issues. The committee also heard public testimony on potential study topics and on HCR 1021 - A concurrent resolution supporting the construction of an outdoor facility for Native American performing arts and competitive events, which was adopted on March 22, 2005 by the Legislature.

At the third meeting, which was held on September 13-14, 2005, at the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council Chambers and at the Casey Family Program Center in Pine Ridge, the committee heard remarks by Tribal President Cecelia Fire Thunder; a presentation by Dr. Craig Howe on historical background for tribal/state/federal relationships; presentations by the Corrections Secretary Tim Reisch and other Department of Corrections personnel on the South Dakota adult and juvenile corrections systems and issues related to Native Americans, the composition of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, and related issues. President Tom Short Bull of Oglala Lakota College discussed the mission and roles of Oglala Lakota College. Dr. Hank Rubin, Joint Dean of Education at SDSU and USD discussed recruitment of Native American teachers, and Keith Moore, Director of Indian Education with the South Dakota Department of Education discussed coordination of state and Native American education programs. Mr. David "Tally" Plume, Director of the Oglala Oyate Woitancan Empowerment Zone discussed the empowerment zone concept and operations and economic development projects and issues in the Pine ridge Reservation area. The committee also heard public testimony on a variety of issues.

The committee's fourth meeting was held on November 18, 2005, in the Capitol in Pierre. The

committee heard discussion of economic development opportunities in film making in South Dakota through presentations by Ms. Billie Jo Waara, Director of the South Dakota Office of Tourism; Mr. Moses Brings Plenty and Ms. Karla La Rive of the Lakota Film and Television Group and the Black Hills Film Resource Council; and Mr. Clifton Skye of the United Sioux Tribes. The committee also heard presentations on gaming issues and proposals from Ms. Ruth Brown, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, and Tribal Chairman James "J.C." Crawford of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Sioux Tribe. Secretary Deb Bowman of the Department of Social Services and staff provided presentations on the Low Income Energy Assistance Program and the TANF Program and projections for South Dakota's TANF reserve. Ms. Daphne Richards-Cook of the Alliance of Tribal Tourism Advocates in Rapid City briefed the committee on that organization's activities and goals. The committee heard public testimony on numerous issues.

Listing of Legislation Adopted

None.

Summary of Meeting Dates and Places and Listing of Committee Members

The committee met in the State Capitol in Pierre on February 28 and March 21, on the Pine Ridge Reservation on September 13-14, and again in the Capitol in Pierre on November 18, 2005.

Members of the committee included Rep. Stan Adelstein (Chair) and Representative Paul Valandra (Vice Chair); Senators Julie Bartling, Tom Dempster, Bob Gray, and Theresa Two Bulls; and Representatives Jim Bradford, Cooper Garnos, J.E. "Jim" Putnam, and Thomas Van Norman.

Committee staff members were Tom Magedanz, Principal Research Analyst; and Teri Retrum, Senior Legislative Secretary.