

State-Tribal Relations

Study Assignment

The State-Tribal Relations Committee is an ongoing interim committee created in statute.

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The State-Tribal Relations Committee is an ongoing interim committee that was created in statute (SDCL 2-6-20 to 2-6-23, inclusive) in 1993 as a part of the state's reconciliation efforts. The statute directs the committee to make a continuing study of the relations between the state and its political subdivisions and the tribes and their tribal governments. The committee provides a forum within state government for discussion of issues affecting the Native American community and issues involving Tribal governments and State government. The committee also serves as a way of familiarizing legislators with such issues.

Summary of Interim

The committee held three meetings during the 2015 Interim. Senator Troy Heinert was elected to serve as chair and Representative Shawn Bordeaux as vice chair for the 2015-16 interims.

The first meeting was held on April 23rd in Pierre. The meeting focused on reports from executive agencies, including the Department of Tribal Relations, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Corrections.

The second meeting was held on July 8th in Pierre. The meeting focused on reports from the Governor's Office of Economic Development, Secretary of State Shantel Krebs and the Department of Tribal Relations.

The third meeting was held October 26th in Pierre. The meeting focused on reports from the Department of Tribal Relations, Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Education Office of Indian Education. At this final meeting, the committee agreed to send a letter to the Governor urging the creation of a commission to study race relations.

Listing of Legislation Adopted

None

Summary of Meeting Dates and Places and Listing of Committee Members

The committee met in Pierre on April 23rd, July 8th, and October 26th.

Members of the committee were Senator Troy Heinert, Chair; Representative Shawn Bordeaux, Vice Chair; Senators Jim Bradford, Betty Olson, Ernie Otten, and Craig Tieszen; and Representatives Kevin Killer, Elizabeth May, Lee Qualm, and James Schaefer.

Committee staff members were Amanda Jacobs, Research Analyst; Stephanie Gruba, Fiscal Analyst; and Cindy Tryon, Senior Secretary.