

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

193I0704

HOUSE BILL NO. 1230

Introduced by: Representatives Bradford, McCoy, Valandra, and Van Norman and Senator Kloucek

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to provide for a study of Native American children in foster
2 care.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. The Department of Social Services shall conduct a study of why there is a
5 disproportionate number of Native American children placed in foster care in this state. The
6 study shall assess the current situation and explore the potential for returning Native American
7 children to their home, removing financial and other barriers to foster care placement with
8 relatives, and coordinating with tribal governments more effectively. The department shall
9 facilitate this by empowering Native American families, including extended families, to care for
10 their own children safely and permanently whenever possible, by preserving existing family
11 relationships, and by recognizing the importance of sibling and half-sibling relationships. In
12 carrying out this study, the department shall consult with a task force of volunteers who have
13 been appointed by consensus vote of the State-Tribal Relations Committee. The task force shall
14 be comprised of five members of the State-Tribal Relations Committee, and as many as four
15 representatives of the department, and tribal governments are encouraged to participate by



1 appointing one representative each. The task force shall serve in an advisory capacity to the
2 State-Tribal Relations Committee until the study is completed. The department shall report the
3 findings of its study to the State-Tribal Relations Committee by September 30, 2003.