



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

# MEETING MINUTES

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

Virtual

January 25, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

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### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Mursau called the meeting to order and a quorum was determined present.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rep. Jeffrey Mursau, Chair; Sen. Janet Bewley, Vice Chair; Sens. André Jacque and Jeff Smith; Reps. David Considine and James Edming; and Public Members Gary Besaw, Michael Decorah, Lorraine Gouge, Conroy Greendeer, Jr., Shannon Holsey, Lisa Liggins, Carmen McGeshick, and Richard Peterson.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Public Members Dee Ann Allen and Ned Daniels, Jr.

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michelle Allness, Department of Natural Resources; Pam McGillivray, Department of Workforce Development; Sandy Stankevich, Department of Transportation; Stephanie Lozano, Department of Children and Families; Gail Nahwahquaw, Department of Health Services; David O'Connor, Department of Public Instruction; and Holly Wilmer, Department of Revenue.

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER EXCUSED:** Tom Bellavia, Department of Justice.

**COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT:** Steve McCarthy, Senior Staff Attorney and Parker Conover, Staff Attorney.

<b>ATTENTION:</b> This was the final meeting of the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations. Committee members are requested to send any corrections regarding minutes to the Legislative Council staff. After the incorporation of any corrections, these minutes will be considered approved by the committee.
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## **DISCUSSION OF TOPICS FOR COMMITTEE STUDY**

### **LRB-0025/1, relating to a lifetime license that authorizes an individual to teach an American Indian language in an American Indian language program and modifying rules promulgated by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI)**

Mr. McCarthy reminded the committee that the bill is in the same form as discussed at the committee's previous meeting. The committee agreed to proceed to a vote without further discussion.

*Representative Considine moved, seconded by Public Member Besaw, that the committee recommend that the Joint Legislative Council introduce LRB-0025/1. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 14 (Reps. Mursau, Considine, and Edming; Sens. Bewley, Jacque, and Smith; and Public Members, Besaw, Decorah, Gouge, Greendeer, Holsey, Liggins, McGeshick, and Peterson); Noes, 0; and Absent, 2 (Public Members Allen and Daniels).*

### **LRB-0386/1, relating to removing the tribal lands designation deadline for cigarette, tobacco products, and vapor products tax refunds**

Mr. McCarthy reminded the committee that the bill is in the same form as discussed at the committee's previous meeting. Public Members Greendeer and Decorah spoke in favor of the legislation, noting that the bill is a key priority for their tribes.

*Senator Bewley moved, seconded by Representative Considine, that the committee recommend that the Joint Legislative Council introduce LRB-0386/1. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 14 (Reps. Mursau, Considine, and Edming; Sens. Bewley, Jacque, and Smith; and Public Members, Besaw, Decorah, Gouge, Greendeer, Holsey, Liggins, McGeshick, and Peterson); Noes, 0; and Absent, 2 (Public Members Allen and Daniels).*

### **LRB-0227/1, relating to composition of temporary committee identifying residential options for a sexually violent person being placed on supervised release**

Mr. McCarthy advised the committee that some members were interested in amending LRB-0227/1, given feedback received from the Wisconsin Counties Association since the committee's last meeting. Specifically, the committee discussed whether the bill should be modified such that a tribe in a county where a sexually violent person being placed on supervised release would not be appointed to the temporary committee identifying residential options, but rather, would receive certain notice of related proceedings and activity.

Ms. McGeshick and her staff asked questions about the rights of victims in cases where a sexually violent person is being placed on supervised release. Ms. Gouge expressed interest in keeping the bill as is, but others, including Mr. Besaw, noted that the bill had little chance of becoming law if it was not modified. The committee agreed to have committee staff modify the bill as discussed and vote on recommending the bill by mail ballot at a later time.

### **Recommendations for tribal representation on certain state boards and councils**

Chair Mursau indicated that a bill draft specifying tribal representation on dozens of state boards and councils was received the morning of the meeting. Chair Mursau indicated that his office was still reviewing the draft, and that it was not yet ready for committee discussion. However, Chair Mursau

indicated his intent to introduce the bill on his own during the current legislative session so that action may be taken on it before the committee is formed again next year.

Mr. Besaw indicated his support for acting on the bill draft as soon as possible, noting that tribal representation and input on these boards and councils is a key priority that would improve the work of the identified boards and councils.

### **Recommendation for tribal eligibility for certain grants from DPI**

Mr. McCarthy advised members that DPI indicated concerns with moving on the idea as proposed. Specifically, DPI was concerned that the suggested bill language was too broad, and could lead to confusion over whether DPI must allocate funds that were not intended to be included. Mr. McCarthy advised committee members that DPI indicated its willingness to work with committee members on crafting a bill that more precisely identified DPI grant programs that could be opened up to tribal schools. Chair Mursau also indicated a willingness to continue to work on this topic. The committee took no further action on this item.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Numerous committee members made concluding remarks and mentioned priorities that tribes will continue to work on, including Act 31 changes, ch. 51 reform, tobacco and alcohol ordinance enforcement, rural broadband expansion, and a bill that addresses “paddle wheel” raffles.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

[The preceding is a summary of the January 25, 2021 meeting of the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations, which was recorded by WiscosnEye. The video recording is available in the [WisconsinEye archives](#).]

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