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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## MINUTES

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### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

Room 412 East  
State Capitol, Madison

December 13, 2022  
10:00 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
PRESENT: Rep. Jeffrey Mursau, Chair; Sen. Janet Bewley, Vice-Chair; Reps. David Bowen, James Edming, Donna Rozar, Paul Tittl, and Robyn Vining; Sen. André Jacque; and Public Members Joey Awonohopay, Michael Decorah, Conroy Greendeer, Jr., Shannon Holsey, and Lisa Liggins.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
EXCUSED: Public Members Dee Ann Allen, Christopher Boyd, Ned Daniels, Jr., Lorraine Gouge, and Carmen McGeshick.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
PRESENT: Kris Goodwill, Department of Natural Resources; David O'Connor, Department of Public Instruction; Cara Connors, Department of Workforce Development; and Holly Wilmer, Department of Revenue.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
EXCUSED: Tom Bellavia, Department of Justice; Stephanie Lozano, Department of Children and Families; Gail Nahwahquaw, Department of Health Services; and Cyless Peterson, Department of Transportation.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Steve McCarthy, Senior Staff Attorney; and Ben Kranner, Staff Analyst.

**ATTENTION:** 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.

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Mursau called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members. A quorum was determined to be present.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 2, 2022 MEETING**

*Representative Tittl moved to approve the minutes of the Special Committee's November 2, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Rozar and passed by unanimous consent.*

### **DISCUSSION OF TOPICS FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

#### **2023 LRB-0011/1, Relating to Model Academic Standards Related to American Indian Studies, Informational Materials Related to a School Board's Obligation to Provide Instruction on American Indians, and the American Indian Studies Requirement for Teacher Licensure**

Mr. McCarthy provided a brief explanation of the bill, indicating that it combines three of five bills relating to Act 31 recommended by the committee in a prior session. Mr. McCarthy also highlighted that only one change was made to the bill relative to the version discussed at the November 2, 2022 meeting of the committee. This change was made to clarify that school districts could provide certain required information electronically.

*Representative Rozar moved, seconded by Representative Edming, that the committee recommend that the Joint Legislative Council introduce LRB-0011/1. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Mursau, Vining, Rozar, Tittl, Edming, and Bowen; Sens. Bewley and Jacque; and Public Members Awonohopay, Decorah, Greendeer, Jr., Holsey, and Liggins); Noes, 0; and Not Voting, 5 (Public Members Allen, Boyd, Daniels, Jr., Gouge, and McGeshick).*

#### **2023 LRB-0012/1, Relating to Pupils Wearing Traditional Tribal Regalia at a Graduation Ceremony or School-Sponsored Event**

Mr. McCarthy provided a brief explanation of the bill. He indicated the bill was unchanged relative to the version discussed at the previous meeting of the committee, with the exception of a correction to the title of a section created under the bill.

Representative Rozar noted that she had contacted former Governor Thompson to ask if there had ever been a situation in the state's colleges where a student was refused the ability to wear traditional tribal regalia. She reported that the former Governor said that he was not aware of any such instances.

*Representative Tittl moved, seconded by Senator Jacque, that the committee recommend that the Joint Legislative Council introduce LRB-0012/1. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Mursau, Vining, Rozar, Tittl, Edming, and Bowen; Sens. Bewley and Jacque; and Public Members Awonohopay, Decorah, Greendeer, Jr., Holsey, and Liggins); Noes, 0; and Not Voting, 5 (Public Members Allen, Boyd, Daniels, Jr., Gouge, and McGeshick).*

#### **2023 LRB-0013/1, Relating to Authorization for Tribal Governments to Copy Certified Copies of Vital Records for Administrative Use**

Mr. McCarthy provided a brief explanation of the bill and indicated that the bill was unchanged relative to the version discussed at the previous meeting of the committee.

*Representative Rozar moved, seconded by Representative Edming, that the committee recommend that the Joint Legislative Council introduce LRB-*

0013/1. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Mursau, Vining, Rozar, Tittl, Edming, and Bowen; Sens. Bewley and Jacque; and Public Members Awonohopay, Decorah, Greendeer, Jr., Holsey, and Liggins); Noes, 0; and Not Voting, 5 (Public Members Allen, Boyd, Daniels, Jr., Gouge, and McGeshick).

### **2023 LRB-0393/1, Relating to Indigenous Peoples' Day**

Mr. Kranner provided a brief explanation of the bill.

*Representative Vining moved, seconded by Representative Rozar, that the committee recommend that the Joint Legislative Council introduce LRB-0393/1. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Mursau, Vining, Rozar, Tittl, Edming, and Bowen; Sens. Bewley and Jacque; and Public Members Awonohopay, Decorah, Greendeer, Jr., Holsey, and Liggins); Noes, 0; and Not Voting, 5 (Public Members Allen, Boyd, Daniels, Jr., Gouge, and McGeshick).*

### **2023 LRB-0573/1, 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**

Mr. McCarthy provided a brief explanation of the bill and discussed changes made to the bill relative to the version discussed at the committee's meeting on August 18, 2022.

Mr. Awonohopay asked for clarification as to whether the bill would give tribes the ability to determine whether a particular teacher is knowledgeable before the Department of Public Instruction provides licensure. Mr. McCarthy confirmed this.

*Representative Tittl moved, seconded by Representative Edming, that the committee recommend that the Joint Legislative Council introduce LRB-0573/1. The motion passed on a vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Mursau, Vining, Rozar, Tittl, Edming, and Bowen; Sens. Bewley and Jacque; and Public Members Awonohopay, Decorah, Greendeer, Jr., Holsey, and Liggins); Noes, 0; and Not Voting, 5 (Public Members Allen, Boyd, Daniels, Jr., Gouge, and McGeshick).*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Mursau thanked members for their work and recognized Senator Bewley for her final meeting as a member of the committee. Senator Bewley voiced her appreciation for the committee and the work of the tribal leaders.

Representative Rozar asked for clarity regarding the ongoing role of committee members with respect to the bills recommended for introduction by the committee. Mr. McCarthy discussed the role of the Joint Legislative Council in introducing the bills and noted that members could reach out to members of the Joint Legislative Council. Mr. McCarthy also noted that all members would be notified if a bill recommended by the committee would be receiving a public hearing. He also highlighted that legislative members and public members would be able to indicate support for a bill at this time. Chair Mursau reiterated that the Joint Legislative Council must approve the bills recommended by the Committee on State-Tribal Relations before the bills could move forward.

Representative Rozar asked if the membership of the Joint Legislative Council had yet been designated for the next legislative session. Mr. McCarthy discussed the typical composition of the committee.

Representative Rozar asked if she could be notified of the committee's membership when it is designated, and Mr. McCarthy confirmed that he would do this.

Chair Mursau thanked members again and encouraged tribal members to reach out to himself or other legislators if they have any issues they would like to see addressed, rather than wait until the committee again reconvenes.

The committee adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

SM:BK:jal