

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6175

C 122 L 12
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Establishing a government-to-government relationship between state government and federally recognized Indian tribes.

Sponsors: Senators Pridemore, Swecker, Prentice, Shin, Sheldon, Kline and Chase.

Senate Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections
House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs

Background: State governors have entered into agreements with federally-recognized Indian tribes to facilitate improved government-to-government relations. These agreements include:

- the Centennial Accord of 1989, intended to improve communication, promote cooperation, and resolve issues through negotiation rather than litigation;
- the New Millennium Agreement of 1999, reaffirming Centennial Accord principles and encouraging the Legislature to establish a structure addressing issues of mutual concern;
- the Out-of-State Accord of 2004, involving tribes in Oregon and Idaho with treaty rights in Washington, affirming principles in the 1989 and 1999 agreements and pledging periodic review of relations and discussion of issues.

The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) advises the Governor on matters involving tribes and serves as a liaison between the state and tribal governments.

Many state elected officials and agencies have designated officers to serve as tribal liaisons.

Summary: In establishing a government-to-government relationship with tribes, state elected officials and agencies must:

- make reasonable efforts to collaborate with tribes in developing policies and agreements and in implementing programs affecting tribes;
- develop a consultation process for issues involving tribes;
- designate a tribal liaison reporting to the head of the agency;
- ensure that tribal liaisons and agency directors receive training through GOIA or another provider that includes effective communication, collaboration, and cultural competency; and
- annually report to the Governor on activities involving tribes and implementation of these requirements.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Tribal liaisons must:

- assist the agency in developing and implementing policies promoting effective communication and collaboration;
- serve as a contact person with tribal governments;
- maintain communication; and
- coordinate training of agency employees.

At least annually, the Governor and other statewide elected officials must meet with tribal leaders to address issues of mutual concern.

The Governor must maintain a current list of tribal liaisons and tribal leaders with contact information that is available to the public.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	44	5
House	72	26

Effective: June 7, 2012