



# State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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## SENATE MEMBERS

JOSH KASSMIER  
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## HOUSE MEMBERS

LYN BENNETT  
SHELLY FYANT  
TERRY NELSON  
TYSON RUNNING WOLF  
CURTIS SCHOMER  
JADE SOOKTIS

## COMMITTEE STAFF

CASEY PALLISTER, Lead Staff  
MADDIE KREZOWSKI, Staff Attorney  
MADDELYN BLACK, Secretary

## FINAL AGENDA

(Updated 12/4/25)

December 9, 2025

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 137 and Zoom

***Please note:*** All times and agenda items are subject to change

9:00 a.m.	<b>STRC Call to Order, Roll Call, Prayer &amp; Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Chair</li></ul>
9:10	<b>Staff Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Casey Pallister, Lead Staff</li></ul>
9:20	<b>Native American Tuition Waiver: Overview &amp; Recent Changes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Galen Hollenbaugh, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations &amp; Communications, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)</li><li>• Joe Thiel, Deputy Commissioner, Academic Research and Student Affairs, OCHE</li><li>• Public comment</li><li>• Committee questions, discussion</li></ul>
10:00	<b>Proposal for Display of Chief Earl Old Person Bust in the Capitol Rotunda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sen. Susan Webber: Introduction and proposal outline</li><li>• Dr. Casey Pallister: Options for relocating bust</li><li>• Public comment</li><li>• Committee questions, discussion</li></ul>
10:20	<b>Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons: STRC Proposal for Training &amp; Curriculum Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Casey Pallister: Introduction</li><li>• <u>OPI Implementation of SB 107 on Human Trafficking Prevention</u></li><li>• Katherine Bloodgood, Legislative Liaison, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)</li><li>• Public comment</li><li>• Committee questions, discussion</li></ul>

11:00	<b>Updates from the Office of the Governor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misty Kuhl, Director, Office of Indian Affairs</li> <li>• Public comment</li> <li>• Committee questions, discussion</li> </ul>
11:30	<b>Agency Updates</b> <p><u>Department of Public Health &amp; Human Services (DPHHS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heidi DeRoche, Tribal Relations Manager, Office of American Indian Health</li> </ul> <p><u>Department of Corrections (DOC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linda Bearcrane-Couture, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator</li> <li>• Mitchell Couture, Indigenous Programming Liaison</li> </ul> <p><u>Montana Historical Society (MHS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nina Sanders, Curator of Indigenous Collections</li> <li>• Public comment</li> <li>• Committee questions, discussion</li> </ul>
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:30	<b>STRC Member Tour of Indigenous Collections at Montana Heritage Center</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nina Sanders, Curator of Indigenous Collections, MHS Montana Heritage Center, 225 Roberts St., Helena</li> <li>• Major Robinson, MHS Consultant</li> <li>• Darby Bramble, MHS Education Officer</li> </ul>
2:30	<b>State-Tribal Consultation: Overview and Study Primer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Casey Pallister: Outline of the Study, Research Questions, and SB 379 (2025) Overview</li> </ul>
3:00	<b>SJ 29: Study Coordinating Efforts Between OPI and DPHHS in Addressing Impacts on Children of Prenatal Exposure to Meth and Fentanyl</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Casey Pallister: Outline of the Study and Research Questions</li> </ul> <p><u>DPHHS: Data Availability and Accessibility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Gerard, Executive Director, Public Health &amp; Community Affairs, DPHHS</li> <li>• Kathy Deserly, American Indian Child &amp; Family Program Officer, DPHHS</li> </ul> <p><u>OPI: Medical Data, Special Education Categories, and Special Education Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick Cates, Senior Manager of Special Education, OPI</li> <li>• Public comment</li> <li>• Committee questions, discussion</li> </ul>
3:45	<b>Committee Work Session, Approval of Work Plan, Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Casey Pallister</li> <li>• Public comment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee questions, discussion</li></ul>
4:30	<b>Public comment</b> on any matter not contained in this agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the STRC
5:00	Adjourn

\*Public comment provided in person to the committee is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the Internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a committee meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the committee meeting.

\*The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Leah Hibbs at 406-444-3073 or [leah.hibbs@legmt.gov](mailto:leah.hibbs@legmt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.