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State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JOSH KASSMIER
GAYLE LAMMERS
SUSAN WEBBER
JONATHAN WINDY BOY

HOUSE MEMBERS

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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.

STRC Call to Order, Roll Call, Prayer & Welcome

- Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Chair

9:10

Staff Updates

- Dr. Casey Pallister, Lead Staff

9:20

Native American Tuition Waiver: Overview & Recent Changes

- Galen Hollenbaugh, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations & Communications, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)
- Joe Thiel, Deputy Commissioner, Academic Research and Student Affairs, OCHE
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

10:00

Proposal for Display of Chief Earl Old Person Bust in the Capitol Rotunda

- Sen. Susan Webber: Introduction and proposal outline
- Dr. Casey Pallister: Options for relocating bust
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

10:20

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons: STRC Proposal for Training & Curriculum Development

- Dr. Casey Pallister: Introduction

OPI Implementation of SB 107 on Human Trafficking Prevention

- Katherine Bloodgood, Legislative Liaison, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

- 11:00 **Updates from the Office of the Governor**
- Misty Kuhl, Director, Office of Indian Affairs
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 11:30 **Agency Updates**
- Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)
- Heidi DeRoche, Tribal Relations Manager, Office of American Indian Health
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Linda Bearcrane-Couture, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator
 - Mitchell Couture, Indigenous Programming Liaison
- Montana Historical Society (MHS)
- Nina Sanders, Curator of Indigenous Collections
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30 **STRC Member Tour of Indigenous Collections at Montana Heritage Center**
- Nina Sanders, Curator of Indigenous Collections, MHS
Montana Heritage Center, 225 Roberts St., Helena
 - Major Robinson, MHS Consultant
 - Darby Bramble, MHS Education Officer
- 2:30 **State-Tribal Consultation: Overview and Study Primer**
- Dr. Casey Pallister: Outline of the Study, Research Questions, and SB 379 (2025) Overview
- 3:00 **SJ 29: Study Coordinating Efforts Between OPI and DPHHS in Addressing Impacts on Children of Prenatal Exposure to Meth and Fentanyl**
- Dr. Casey Pallister: Outline of the Study and Research Questions
- DPHHS: Data Availability and Accessibility
- David Gerard, Executive Director, Public Health & Community Affairs, DPHHS
 - Kathy Deserly, American Indian Child & Family Program Officer, DPHHS
- OPI: Medical Data, Special Education Categories, and Special Education Services
- Patrick Cates, Senior Manager of Special Education, OPI
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 3:45 **Committee Work Session, Approval of Work Plan, Next Steps**
- Dr. Casey Pallister
 - Public comment

- Committee questions, discussion

4:30 **Public comment** 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.

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