



State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee

58th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JOHN BOHLINGER--Chair
EDWARD BUTCHER
KEN HANSEN
CAROLYN SQUIRES

HOUSE MEMBERS

CAROL JUNEAU--Vice Chair
BRUCE MALCOLM
RICK RIPLEY
JONATHAN WINDY BOY

COMMITTEE STAFF

CONNIE ERICKSON, Research Analyst
EDDYE MCCLURE, Staff Attorney
DAWN FIELD, Secretary

MINUTES

August 17, 2004

Room 137, State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Committee tapes are on file in the offices of the Legislative Services Division. **Exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. JOHN BOHLINGER, Chair
REP. CAROL JUNEAU, Vice Chair

SEN. EDWARD BUTCHER
SEN. KEN HANSEN
SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES

REP. BRUCE MALCOLM
REP. RICK RIPLEY
REP. JONATHAN WINDY BOY

STAFF PRESENT

CONNIE ERICKSON, Research Analyst
EDDYE MCCLURE, Staff Attorney
DAWN FIELD, Secretary

AGENDA & VISITORS' LIST

Agenda, Attachment #1.
Visitors' list, Attachment #2.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Committee approved:

- the June 3 and 4, 2004, minutes, as written.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

SEN. BOHLINGER called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The secretary noted the roll, SEN. HANSEN was excused (Attachment #3).

The minutes from the June 3 and 4, 2004, meeting were approved as written by a unanimous voice vote.

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

SEN. BOHLINGER called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.. Introductions were made and the secretary noted the roll; SEN. HANSEN was excused. The minutes from the June 3 and 4, 2004, minutes were approved as written by a unanimous voice vote.

LORALEE ROBINSON, JOBS FOR MONTANA GRADUATES (JMG), presented a report to the Committee on the status of the JMG program (EXHIBIT #1). The report included program results for each reservation for 2002-2004, budget information for 2002-2004, budget projections for 2004-2005, an update on the status of the middle school program, a comparison of the JMG and Human Resource Council programs, and other information.

SEN. BUTCHER asked for information on the ratio of female and male participants in the program. Ms. Robinson said statewide, female participants outnumber male participants 54% to 48%. SEN. BUTCHER asked for information on what types of jobs JMG students find after graduation. Ms. Robinson said she would provide that information to SEN. BUTCHER. She added that many of the JMG graduates go on to postsecondary education programs. While in the JMG program, students are encouraged to decide if postsecondary education is the avenue they wish to pursue and if not, the students are encouraged to begin identifying other possible career choices.

REP. RIPLEY asked for data on the number of JMG graduates who have gone on to postsecondary education versus the number of students who chose to enter the work force immediately after high school graduation. Ms. Robinson said she would obtain that information and provide it to REP. RIPLEY.

SEN. BUTCHER said it would be very useful to track the students beyond high school in order to determine how successful the JMG program is. Ms. Robinson said the students are tracked for approximately one year after graduation from high school. She indicated that it would not be too difficult to extend that tracking period for an additional year and that she would also gather information on what types of jobs the JMG graduates are employed in after graduation.

REP. JUNEAU asked if Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) students are targeted as students in need of extra resources or support, or if students are accepted into the JMG program simply because they ask to be. Ms. Robinson said a selection process is used to

determine who will be accepted into the JMG program. Criteria is based on factors such as absenteeism, grade point average, the circumstances of the student's home life and other barriers; and the selections are made by each school's administration and faculty members. The students with the greatest number of barriers are enrolled first.

REP. JUNEAU said she would prefer that students be tracked all four years of highschool, instead of just their junior and/or senior year. It can be misleading to see that, for example, 68 of 76 seniors graduate, when as freshman, that class started out as a class of 90 students. Ms. Robinson said REP. JUNEAU's point was well-taken but pointed out that not all students participate in the program all four years of high school and that not all schools offer the program as a four-year program. She said she would attempt to gather information on the freshman and sophomore student numbers for REP. JUNEAU.

REP. JUNEAU asked if the JMG program provides any financial support to graduates for further education or job training. Ms. Robinson said in 2003, scholarships were given to five students and that there are plans to expand the number of scholarships given in the future.

SEN. BUTCHER asked for additional information about the JMG scholarships. Ms. Robinson said either \$250 or \$500 grants are given to students going on to postsecondary education or to job training programs and that the grant is sent directly to the school after proof of enrollment is provided. SEN. BUTCHER said Native American students receive fee waivers and that he didn't see the need for additional scholarships. Ms. Robinson said all students enrolled in the JMG program are eligible to apply for the scholarship funds. REP. JUNEAU commented that the fee waiver available to Native American students is based on economic need and is not automatically given to all Native American students.

Ms. Robinson said the biggest weakness of the Montana JMG program is that there is not funding for full-time job specialists to work with the students in the schools. She predicted that there would be a drastic change in numbers of students attending school, and that students' grade point averages and self-esteem would improve noticeably if full-time job specialists were placed in the participating schools.

SEN. BOHLINGER commented that Montana has very impressive success record, in spite of the funding restrictions.

SEN. BUTCHER asked how many students are actually enrolled from the entire pool of students that could benefit from the JMG program. Ms. Robinson said the percentage of students served in each school varies and that a survey is being conducted to determine how many more students could be enrolled and benefit from the JMG program. Funding the teacher specialist required to teach the program is the biggest hurdle to increasing the student enrollment in the JMG program.

LARRY MITCHELL, LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE (LEPO), presented a report prepared for the Environmental Quality Council regarding the HJR 43 Water Quality Study, as mandated by the 2003 Legislature (EXHIBIT #2). The report describes in general terms the status of the reclamation efforts at the Zortman and Landusky Mines and if additional action should be taken to further improve cleanup efforts and water quality.

Mr. Mitchell noted that the area around Swift Gulch on the Fort Belknap Reservation is of particular concern. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has appropriated funding to study this area and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has also asked the Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) for \$300,000 to monitor this area as well.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the EQC plans to tour the area on September 9, 2004, and invited the State-Tribal Relations Committee members to attend.

REP. WINDY BOY asked if tribal data had been incorporated into the report. Mr. Mitchell said he had requested information from the tribes but none had been submitted to him. REP. WINDY BOY commented that the Fort Belknap Tribal Council does have information but due to pending litigation, it could not be released at this time.

REP. JUNEAU asked if the EQC plans to propose legislation, based on the report. Mr. Mitchell said the EQC would act on the report at the September meeting but that he did not anticipate legislation. He noted that if no action is taken by the EQC, an individual legislator would be free to sponsor a bill to address this issue.

JULIA DONEY, FORT BELKNAP TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON, encouraged the Committee members to attend the September 9 tour of the Zortman Landusky mines. She stressed that water quality is of great importance to all Montanans and said that the Fort Belknap people hope to reclaim the water quality that once existed in that area. Ms. Doney asked the Committee for its support in this endeavor.

ANDY HUFF, INDIAN LAW RESOURCE CENTER, said the Fort Belknap Environmental Office and the Indian Law Resource Center would be submitting comments on HJR 43 to the EQC. He said the study was intended to be a neutral report to the Legislature, but in his opinion, much of the information made available to the public and the legislators was distorted due to litigation, the political nature of the issue, and is not entirely accurate. Mr. Huff encouraged the Committee members to attend the September tour in order to get an accurate picture of the actual circumstances of the Zortman and Landusky Mines.

REPORT ON NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE ISSUES

CONNIE ERICKSON, RESEARCH ANALYST, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION (LSD), reported on the Committee's June visit to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and the issues and concerns heard there. Ms. Erickson reported that:

- she has investigated and responded to the Food Distribution Program concerns regarding eligibility certification, as requested by Mr. Glen Little Bird (EXHIBIT #3); and
- she is continuing to follow up on other issues discussed by tribal members:
 - ▼ the indirect costs of social services programs;
 - ▼ using a state certified meat inspector to approve buffalo meat for use in the school and senior citizen hot lunch programs; and
 - ▼ transportation issues.

HJR 8 DROPOUT PREVENTION STUDY REPORT

Ms. Erickson presented *WHAT MONTANA CAN DO TO SAVE ITS AT-RISK CHILDREN*

(EXHIBIT #4), a comprehensive report prepared by Ms. Erickson to address the findings of the HJR 8 Dropout Prevention Study. Ms. Erickson explained that the report identifies strategies, rather than specific programs, to decrease the number of students, particularly Indian students, dropping out of school. Ms. Erickson discussed each of the strategies and concluded her presentation by listing seven recommendations and how to implement them into Montana's educational system.

SEN. BOHLINGER complimented Ms. Erickson on the thoroughness of her report and commented that education is the key to overcoming poverty.

DONNA O'NEILL, OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI), commented that OPI already collects dropout data and follows standard definitions developed by the National Center of Educational Statistics (NCES) to report graduates and dropouts.

LINDA ATWOOD, OPI, added that OPI collects only the total number of students who dropped out and not the detailed reasons why the students chose to drop out.

GENE HUNTINGTON, ADMINISTRATOR, GAMBLING CONTROL DIVISION, presented a report from the Gaming Advisory Council (GAC). Mr. Huntington reviewed the purpose and makeup of the GAC, several pertinent details of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988, as well as the background of the existing Indian Gaming Compact for Class I and II games. He said frustrations regarding the Tribes' desire to negotiate and finalize gaming compacts for Class III games with the State, the lack of a clear understanding of what the Governor could or could not negotiate, and what the Legislature's role in the process is was the impetus for the draft legislative concept he would be discussing with the Committee.

Mr. Huntington then presented the draft legislative concept which would provide for delegation of authority to the Governor to negotiate and execute Class III Gaming Agreements with Indian Tribes (EXHIBIT #5) and explained the key elements and provisions of the proposed legislation.

Ms. Erickson asked Mr. Huntington to explain that the proposed legislation would clarify the Governor's role in negotiating gaming compacts. Mr. Huntington said the Governor's current authority is very general and the language in the proposed bill would clarify and give very specific guidelines for both the Governor and the Legislature's authority in the negotiations process.

REP. JUNEAU stated that this proposed bill is the result of many discussions among various tribes because of the need to understand the Governor's role in negotiations. She asked Mr. Huntington to explain (3)(c) of the proposed legislation (EXHIBIT #5). Mr. Huntington said several tribes want games which are not currently permitted by state law, so some portions of the statute may have to be amended to say that these particular games are not permitted, except as provided in compacts. It is possible that this action could result in an appropriation or impact the general fund and either would have to have legislative approval.

ROGER RUNNING CRANE, BLACKFEET TRIBE, stated that it is important to understand that all Indian nations have different needs, different goals, and are unique in their own way. He said a "cookie cutter" approach will not work, because what is good for one tribe may not necessarily be good for another tribe. He suggested that some portions of the compact, such

as the number of machines allowed and the pot limits and prizes, should be market-driven and that each tribe be allowed to set its own limits.

SEN. SQUIRES asked Mr. Running Crane to explain how this proposed bill would be balanced and fair to those already operating a business. Mr. Running Crane said IGRA specifies that Indian tribes and Indian tribes only be allowed to have gaming machines and that IGRA was intended to give an economic advantage to the tribes. Mr. Running Crane added, that in his opinion, it is not fair that one family in Montana controls 65 establishments and has 1,381 gaming machines. He pointed out that the Blackfeet Tribe has 15,000 enrolled members and doesn't have a single machine.

SEN. SQUIRES asked Mr. Huntington to respond. Mr. Huntington disagreed with Mr. Running Crane's remarks regarding the state's "cookie cutter" approach, saying that in fact, a variety of gaming arrangements have been made with different tribes.

SEN. BUTCHER asked if the businesses own or rent the gaming machines. Mr. Huntington said almost all of the gaming machines are rented from licensed route operators and that the typical rental fee is 40% of the proceeds. SEN. BUTCHER asked if the businesses that own the gaming machines are in-state or out-of-state businesses. Mr. Huntington said most are Montana based businesses.

REP. JUNEAU asked Mr. Huntington to comment on Mr. Running Crane's request to allow the conditions of play to be market driven. Mr. Huntington said that many of the conditions of play are regulated by state law and not open to negotiation.

SEN. BUTCHER after reviewing the proposed legislation, it appeared to him that it would allow a governor to implement action without a legislative vote on it. Mr. Huntington said this would provide notice to the Legislature of the compact, so if it was thought the conditions of play were being violated, there would be an opportunity for legislative review.

Ms. Erickson said the proposed bill gives the Legislature a greater role in the compacting process. Currently, the Legislature has no role in the compacting process.

SARAH BOND, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, said IGRA preempts state law with respect to gambling on reservations and requires the state to negotiate to allow permitted gaming with any tribe that asks. Unless there is a compact, there is no gambling on any reservation. The federal government has primary authority over reservations, along with the inherent sovereignty of the tribes on those reservations, except to the extent that state law is saved as part and parcel of IGRA. IGRA was intended to be an economic engine for Indian tribes and was intended to make money for the Indians. It was not intended to provide a fair level playing field of competition with non Indians. The Act requires that all the revenue raised by gambling go into local infrastructure for sewers, schools, healthcare facilities, and healthcare education, for example. IGRA, although it preempts states law on reservations, saves for state law who does the negotiating for the state and what kind of gambling the state has to allow. The state doesn't have to negotiate for any gambling that is not permitted off-reservation.

Ms. Bond said the proposed legislation isn't intended to change what is currently done or to add to it, but to codify how the law is currently interpreted. The Legislature has sole authority, as

provided in the Montana Constitution, Article 3, Section 9 - sole authority over gambling in Montana. This bill simply clarifies what authority the Governor has to negotiate and execute compacts with tribes, so long as the compact stays within existing legislative direction. If there is a Governor who steps outside the boundaries and does something different, this bill confirms the Legislature's constitutional authority to be the one to make that definition.

Ms. McClure said tribes appreciate being able to negotiate leader to leader and this bill would allow for that. She also pointed out that the new language will not apply to compacts approved or negotiated on or before December 31, 2004.

REP. WINDY BOY asked how long the Gaming Advisory Committee has worked with the tribes to design the proposed bill. Mr. Huntington said the stakeholders had worked together for over a year to develop this bill draft proposal.

Ms. Bond submitted for the record an e-mail message received from Randal McDonald (EXHIBIT #6) regarding the gaming compact bill draft proposal developed by the Gaming Advisory Commission (EXHIBIT #5).

The Committee requested that the proposal be drafted on behalf of the Department of Justice.

INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Noel Sansaver, Fort Peck Assiniboine Tribe, & Commission Chair, presented the 2004 Initiatives identified by the State Tribal Indian Economic Development Commission (STEDC) (EXHIBIT #7):

- Tribal Assessment;
- Tribal Business Information Centers;
- Memorandum of Understanding -- Office of Economic Opportunity;
- Native American Development Corporation;
- Continued Technical Assistance: Federal Assistance Monitor State Tribal Economic Development Commission Summit - 8A Certification; and
- Legislation Overview, Sunset, Quorum, Funding.

Bob Gauthier, Economic Development Advisor, Salish-Kootenai Tribe, presented information on the importance of tribal assessment of economic development efforts. Mr. Gauthier said each tribe has a significant economic impact on Montana communities and that developing an accurate profile of that impact is important, both for the tribes and the state. The total budgets of the tribes amounts to millions of dollars that are spent in the state. Each tribe is developing its own profile and the profiles will be available in a report in September. REP. JUNEAU asked that a copy of the assessment report be provided to her when it becomes available.

Caroline Brown, Tribal Business Information Centers (TBICs), discussed the importance, impact, and funding of TBICs. Ms. Brown noted that:

- of seven original TBICs operating in Montana, only three or four remain in operation, mainly due to funding cuts by the Small Business Administration;
- TBICs are very important to economic development efforts on reservations;
- TBICs provide education, training, and technical assistance to individuals interested in

- starting a business; and
- the Economic Development Commission would like state funding for one staff member for each of the TBICs.

REP. WINDY BOY asked how the State Tribal Economic Development Commission is funded. **Lori Ryan, Governor's Office**, said the current budget for the State Tribal Economic Development Commission receives its funding from the general fund.

Mr. Sansaver said the Commission is asking that the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee develop and sponsor the legislation that the State Tribal Economic Development Commission wants. He said the Commission wants to continue its work and will continue to seek funding from all sources, not just state funding sources.

Mr. Sansaver reported that the Governor's mandate that an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be developed between local tribal governments and state and federal entities has been developed and distributed to all tribal leaders. Mr. Sansaver provided copies to the Committee members (EXHIBIT #8) and said that the Commission is waiting for comments from the tribal leaders before proceeding further.

To date the Commission efforts under the MOU include:

- collaboration with the Native American Development Corporation to co-sponsor the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Economic Development Summit in Billings, Montana;
- Workshops were held on various topics related to economic development such as appropriate corporate structures;
- locating businesses in Indian Country, technical assistance; and
- 8A certification for businesses.

REP. WINDY BOY expressed his full support of the MOU, saying he is a past member of the Commission and understands the importance of the MOU to the tribes. He said he would work to overcome any obstacles that may prevent the MOU from being successful.

SEN. BOHLINGER asked what would need to be budgeted in order to cover the cost of having one staff member in each tribal community. Mr. Sansaver said he did not know but would formulate that cost and report to the Committee.

REP. JUNEAU said, while the direction to develop a MOU was not the responsibility of the Commission, she applauded the Commission members for its efforts in the development of the MOU. Mr. Sansaver said he had collaborated with Dave Gibson of the GOED, as well as others, in developing the MOU.

REP. JUNEAU noted that SEN. BAUCUS had recently met with five different nations to discuss trade and commerce and that none of the seven tribal nations of Montana had been invited to participate in these discussions. The state needs to include the tribal nations when there are opportunities for economic development and it would have been a positive step to include the tribal nations. Mr. Sansaver said the GOED has been very supportive of the Commission's efforts and cited situations in which Mr. Gibson had worked with the Commission to promote economic development.

Andy Poole, Department of Commerce, discussed the fact that the STEDC will be sunsetted on June 30, 2005, and asked that the Committee consider repealing that sunset date. He said all the work the Commission has done would end on June 30, 2005, if the sunset is not repealed. He said other issues recently discussed by the Commission are:

- quorum required for Commission meetings - it has been difficult to get a quorum of the Commission under the current requirements because of the travel distance that many of the members face. Mr. Poole suggested that the quorum requirements be adjusted to allow for fewer members to be present at Commission meeting 90-1-131 (4), MCA, in particular, saying the seven members are currently required and recommended that the number be changed to five members.
- that while the commission off to a slow start, it has gained a great deal of momentum and has made a great deal of progress. He asked that the Commission be allowed to continue its work and that the sunset clause be repealed.
- that Tribal Business Information Centers (TBICs) are not funded and that obtaining funding for all seven centers is one of the top priorities of the Commission. TBICs are akin to the SBDCs funded through state government and the SBA, and are critical to tribes. TBICs are better able to understand the needs of a Native American business owner than other entities which provide assistance to new businesses.

REP. JUNEAU said the 2003 Legislature passed major economic development bills and asked if the tribes are participating in any of the programs established through this legislation. Mr. Sansaver said tribes were given the opportunity to submit applications to be a certified regional development corporation but that some chose to participate on a county level. Many tribes are participating in the certified regional development corporations, some more than others. He said he did not have information on how many tribes were participating in the workforce training program adopted in 2003.

SEN. BUTCHER asked if the sudden upturn in economic development efforts by the tribes could be attributed to the focused support from the GOED and the Department of Commerce. Mr. Poole said the Department of Commerce's job is to help develop jobs and businesses for all Montana citizens.

SEN. BUTCHER asked if the Department of Commerce reorganization that was done in 2001 also attributed to the improved statewide economic development efforts. Mr. Poole said in his opinion, that was definitely the case. The Department has been able to focus less on regulation, and more on growing and supporting businesses.

Mr. Gauthier said while the Commission wants to present a positive message of what is being done on the reservations, there is still much to be done. Many reservations still suffer from deplorable conditions and unemployment rates that far exceed the state average. One of the problems recognized early on is that many of the tribes don't have the capacity to identify and to access programs that could help them. Public Law 330, for example, passed in 1997 and authorized \$1 billion per year in guaranteed loans for tribal programs: housing, water, sewer, fire stations, or any type of community development. In Montana, only three loans have been made under this program, largely because no one knows how to access and apply the money to existing programs. SB 1542 (federal), which would give expanded bonding authority to tribes, is another example, as well as low-income housing tax credits. These are prime examples of funding and programs that the Commission can assist with and obtain for Montana

reservations.

Mr. Sansaver said the Commission came before the State Tribal Relations Interim Committee to not only ask for help, but also to offer the Commission's assistance in furthering the Committee's efforts to help tribes. He thanked REP. JUNEAU for her continued support and persistence in guidance and support to the State Tribal Economic Development Commission.

SEN. BOHLINGER said the Committee has visited two reservations and is committed to developing better relationships between state and tribal governments. On behalf of the Committee, he said it is anxious and willing to work with the Commission to help the tribal nations of Montana prosper and grow.

SEN. BUTCHER said entrepreneurs on reservations will likely have to depend on off-reservation investments and asked if the Commission is helping the reservations create a sense of security for businesses to actually invest large sums into a reservation setting. Mr. Sansaver said the Commission agrees that a secure business climate is necessary and that work has been done to help create that type of environment in order to encourage outside businesses to invest.

Mr. Gauthier related a story illustrating how fear of the unknown resulted in the formation of a very successful tribally-owned and operated insurance company. All seven reservations are separate and independent sovereign nations and each set different goals and priorities. He said economic development is a priority for some, but not others.

Mr. Sansaver requested that the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee sponsor legislation to remove the sunset clause on the State Tribal Economic Development Commission, to change the quorum requirement from seven members to five members, and to fund the continuance of the Commission and within that funding, the TBICs and the continued efforts of the Commission.

SEN. BUTCHER asked how many members the Commission has. Mr. Sansaver reported that currently the Commission has ten members and that the quorum requirement is for seven members to be present. Winter travel, in particular, presents difficulty in reaching that quorum and the Commission feels that five members for a quorum would be sufficient to conduct business.

SEN. BOHLINGER said the Committee would act on the proposed legislative requests later in the meeting.

Eddy McClure, Staff Attorney, said the request to change the Commission's quorum requirement from seven to five members not be possible and that the minimum number for a quorum would have to be six members because a majority of members must be present in order to conduct a meeting. She said she would investigate the funding request before drafting a bill, if the Committee approved the drafting of a bill. She asked the Committee if it wished to completely eliminate the sunset provision from the bill or if the sunset should be extended. The Committee agreed to extend the sunset clause, instead of repealing it.

REP. JUNEAU said she had sent an e-mail message to the Economic Development

Commission prior to the meeting which contained a list of concerns she wished to have addressed. She stated that several of these concerns had not been addressed.

REP. MALCOLM expressed concern with the MOU language that the language requires the Office of Economic Development cooperate with the tribes but there is no language requiring the tribe to cooperate with the Office of Economic Development. Ms. McClure responded that agencies can be statutorily required to cooperate but as a sovereign nation, a tribe cannot be required to cooperate. Ms. McClure said she would investigate why that particular language was used in the MOU and share REP. MALCOLM's concerns about the language.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Edwards, Executive Director, Montana Consensus Council, reported that the Consensus Council will be hosting a Natural Resource Leadership Institute training in September (EXHIBIT #9) and a Conflict Partnerships training in October. Ms. Edwards extended an invitation to the Committee members. She said the members would receive a brochure in the mail shortly.

She asked that the Committee consider using the Consensus Council as a resource, if needed.

PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF FINAL REPORT

Connie Erickson presented and discussed a preliminary draft of the final report of the State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee (EXHIBIT #10). She said the report contains a summary of the activities undertaken by the Committee, as well as of the issues studied during the interim.

SEN. SQUIRES, referring to the Jobs for Montana Graduates Program report, asked if performance standards could be established for the program. She said these students should be held to a higher standard, due to the training and education these students receive. Ms. Erickson said she would find out if this could be done.

REP. MALCOLM said the fact that JMG students graduate with a good sense of self and an expectation of success is the most important aspect of the program and that these are difficult to measure.

Ms. Erickson suggested, in light of the volume of information and requests presented at the day's meeting, postponing taking action on the legislative requests and scheduling an additional half-day meeting on September 8, 2004, in order to deal with those requests. After a brief discussion, the members made the decision to schedule a half-day meeting to deal with the legislative requests.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before it, the Committee adjourned at 4 p.m.

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