

HOUSE BILL NO. 5600

March 20, 2024, Introduced by Reps. Rheingans, Conlin, Hill, Dievendorf, Brixie, Coffia, Byrnes, Brabec, Morgan, Wilson, Haadsma, Paiz, Mentzer, Price, Arbit, Glanville, Hood, Wegela, Young, Jaime Greene, Brenda Carter, Kunse, Tsernoglou, Koleszar, Rogers, McKinney, Andrews and Scott and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to create the office of the tribal legislative liaison; and to prescribe the powers and duties of the office, the liaison, and the legislative council.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Council" means the legislative council established under
3 section 15 of article IV of the state constitution of 1963.

4 (b) "Liaison" means the tribal legislative liaison.

5 (c) "Office" means the office of tribal legislative liaison
6 created under this act.

1 Sec. 2. (1) The office of the tribal legislative liaison is
2 created within the legislative council to help establish and
3 maintain a government-to-government relationship between the
4 federally recognized tribes in this state and the legislature, and
5 to consult with the legislature during the development of
6 legislation that affects the federally recognized tribes in this
7 state.

8 (2) The principal executive officer of the office is the
9 tribal legislative liaison who shall be appointed by and serve at
10 the pleasure of the council.

11 (3) The council shall appoint the liaison from a list of not
12 fewer than 3 names provided by the elected council of sovereign
13 tribal leaders assembled as the United Tribes of Michigan, or a
14 successor organization.

15 Sec. 3. (1) The council shall establish procedures for
16 approving the budget of the office, for expending money in the
17 budget, and for the employment of personnel for the office.

18 (2) The personnel for the office must consist of not fewer
19 than all of the following individuals:

20 (a) The liaison.

21 (b) Two tribal legislative policy advisors, who are
22 responsible for legislative and policy work on behalf of the
23 liaison.

24 Sec 4. (1) The liaison shall do all of the following:

25 (a) Maintain a relationship with each federally recognized
26 tribe in this state and visit each tribe not less than once per
27 year.

28 (b) Provide guidance for members of the legislature and the
29 member's staff during the development of legislation based on how

1 proposed legislation may impact tribes and tribal members.

2 (c) Inform the legislature of the impact that specific
3 legislation will have on the tribes of this state.

4 (d) Provide an annual not less than hour-long training to
5 members of the legislature and the member's staff on each of the
6 following topics:

7 (i) How to consult and coordinate with the liaison.

8 (ii) The history and current state of the federally recognized
9 tribes in this state.

10 (2) The liaison may communicate with any tribal liaison in the
11 executive branch.

12 (3) By not later than December 31 of each year, the office
13 shall submit a written report to the governor, the senate majority
14 leader, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
15 chairperson of each committee in the legislature that must include,
16 but is not limited to, a summary of concerns that were presented by
17 elected tribal leaders during the development of legislation in the
18 previous year. The office shall also post the written report
19 described in this subsection on a website that is accessible to the
20 public.