

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tentative Agenda

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 28-29, 1997
Roughrider Room and Senate Chamber, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Tuesday, October 28, 1997 - Roughrider Room

9:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
Consideration of minutes of the September 4-5, 1997, meeting

WELFARE REFORM STUDY

9:05 a.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of a summary of welfare reform study issues

9:10 a.m. Presentation by representatives of the Department of Human Services regarding the committee's monitoring of welfare reform implementation efforts and the study of the implementation of the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program, including:

- A status report on the state's implementation of the TANF program, the United States Department of Health and Human Services approval of the state's TANF plan, and recent congressional changes affecting welfare reform
- Information regarding the TANF program, including:
 - Relevant current statistics, base numbers, and projections, including caseloads and other informational and relevant indices including unemployment rates
 - The availability of client employment opportunities
 - The projected rate of TANF expenditures for the 1997-99 biennium and a comparison of actual and projected expenditures to date
 - The involvement of the private sector in welfare reform
 - The availability and affordability of child care in North Dakota
 - The client educational opportunities allowable under TANF and state law and the "life skills" training available
 - Tracking recipients after leaving the TANF program
- A status report on the availability of federal funding for a review of the state's implementation of welfare reform
- A report on the impact of 1997 spring storms and flooding on welfare reform efforts in the northeastern part of the state

11:15 a.m. Comments regarding the implementation, including the possible role of tribal training programs, the administration, and the state funding responsibilities of the North Dakota welfare-to-work program by the following:

- Department of Human Services
- Job Service North Dakota
- North Dakota Private Industry Council

- 12:00 noon Luncheon recess
- 1:00 p.m. Presentation by representatives of the North Dakota University System regarding higher education institutional goals contained in the six-year plan which relate to welfare reform and child care needs of students and faculty, how the needs are being met, and the possible use of state facilities by private providers to meet the needs
- 2:00 p.m. Comments by committee members regarding the activities of the Welfare Reform Task Force and the Child Support Committee
- 2:15 p.m. Comments by Ms. Linda Reinicke, Program Director, Child Care Resource and Referral, Lutheran Social Services, regarding the delivery of child care in North Dakota
- 2:45 p.m. Comments by other interested persons
- 4:00 p.m. Committee discussion and staff directives regarding the monitoring of welfare reform
- 5:00 p.m. Recess

Wednesday, October 29, 1997 - Senate Chamber

- 9:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
- 9:05 a.m. Comments by Senator Jim Yockim, Chairman, Welfare Reform Committee; Representative Bill Oban, Chairman, Budget Committee on Long-Term Care; and Senator Tim Mathern, Chairman, Budget Committee on Human Services

MAJOR RELATED STUDY ISSUES

Welfare Reform Committee - Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4030 - Study of state and tribal relations regarding welfare reform

Budget Committee on Long-Term Care - House Concurrent Resolution No. 3005 - Indian long-term care needs and access to appropriate services

Budget Committee on Human Services - House Concurrent Resolution No. 3042 - Study of the Department of Human Services

- 9:20 a.m. Introductory comments by Ms. Deborah Painte, Executive Director, Indian Affairs Commission, regarding the committees' studies and introduction of tribal representatives

WELFARE REFORM ISSUES

- 9:30 a.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services regarding the following tribal welfare reform issues, including any recommendations the department may have at this time:
- Recent congressional changes, including those in the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1997
 - The state's implementation options for the welfare-to-work program and the related potential effect on tribal welfare reform efforts

- Tribal welfare reform program options, including information on the advantages and disadvantages of any options
- Tribal direct service provision versus a contractual relationship with the Department of Human Services
- State matching of tribal temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) funding
- Program coordination, replication of services, automation and data collection, and quality control issues
- Employment opportunities, work participation rate requirements, and benefit time limitations

9:50 a.m. Committee questions and discussion

10:00 a.m. Comments by Mr. John Bushman, Acting Director of the Division of Tribal Services, United States Department of Health and Human Services, regarding state and tribal welfare reform issues, including:

- Recent congressional or Department of Health and Human Services changes impacting tribal welfare reform
- Tribal welfare reform program options, including tribal and state benefits
- The status of tribal welfare reform programs in other states
- Tribal direct service provision versus a contractual relationship with the Department of Human Services
- State matching of tribal TANF funding
- Program coordination, replication of services, automation and data collection, and quality control issues
- Employment opportunities, work participation rate requirements, and benefit time limitations

10:45 a.m. Committee questions and discussion

11:00 a.m. Comments by representatives of tribal governments regarding tribal welfare reform issues, including:

- Tribal welfare reform program options
- Tribal direct service provision versus a contractual relationship with the Department of Human Services
- State matching of tribal TANF funding
- Program coordination, replication of services, automation and data collection, and quality control issues
- Employment opportunities, work participation rate requirements, and benefit time limitations

11:40 a.m. Committee questions and discussion

11:50 a.m. Comments by interested persons regarding tribal welfare reform issues

12:15 p.m. Luncheon recess

LONG-TERM CARE ISSUES

- 1:15 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services on long-term care, basic care, and home and community-based services available on North Dakota Indian reservations; alternative service options available for American Indians within the state; and any recommendations the department may have at this time to meet the future long-term care service needs of American Indians
- 1:50 p.m. Committee questions and discussion
- 2:00 p.m. Comments by representatives of tribal governments on the adequacy of long-term care, basic care, and home and community-based services for American Indians in North Dakota and on recommendations to meet the future long-term care service needs of American Indians in North Dakota
- 2:50 p.m. Committee questions and discussion
- 3:00 p.m. Comments by interested persons regarding American Indian long-term care needs in North Dakota

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES STUDY ISSUES

- 3:30 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services regarding the relationship of the state office and the human service centers with tribal governments and any suggestions to improve that relationship
- 3:50 p.m. Committee questions and discussion
- 4:00 p.m. Comments by representatives of tribal governments regarding the relationship with the state office of the Department of Human Services and the human service centers and county social services and any suggestions to improve that relationship
- 4:45 p.m. Committee questions and discussion
- 5:00 p.m. Comments by interested persons regarding the relationship between tribal governments and the Department of Human Services
- 5:15 p.m. Adjourn

Committee Members

Senators Jim Yockim (Chairman), Judy L. DeMers, Tom Fischer, Judy Lee, Donna L. Nalewaja, Bob Stenehjem, Russell T. Thane
 Representatives LeRoy G. Bernstein, Linda Christenson, Jack Dalrymple, Connie Johnsen, Ralph L. Kilzer, Carol A. Niemeier, Clara Sue Price, Robin Weisz