

TAWNA SANCHEZ
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 43
NORTH AND NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 6, 2023

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

House Bill 2112 is an important bill that would add tribal cultural and historical purposes to the list of values used to appraise public records in the future and I would like to give my support.

The statute change would codify our current practice of more in-depth consideration of Tribal cultural and historical purposes when establishing retention periods for government records. Currently, state agencies are already required to employ a Tribal Liaison, and the Secretary of State's Office has been working with them on records retention and destruction.

The proposed changes to the statute could increase visibility and in turn lead to more resources applied in that direction.

This bill is the result of relationship building and strengthening partnerships between the Secretary of State and Tribal Governments. In 2017, Governor Brown convened the Tribal Items Task Force that began soliciting information about items in the possession of state agencies and other public institutions associated with Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes.

The State Archives hoped to spark conversations between state agency records officers and state agency Tribal Liaisons by requiring Agency Tribal Liaison signoff for records due for destruction at the Oregon State Records Center. This created a cascading effect throughout agencies, many of whom previously **did not** have a designated Tribal Liaison.

The responsibility of the State Archives within the Secretary of State's Office is to house and provide access to valuable public records. The office also determines the retention period for each of the records series. In statute, the State Archives are currently required to weigh four values for retention-administration, legal, fiscal, and historical. Through their work with the Governor's Tribal Cultural Items Task Force, the office has learned much about the ongoing Tribal cultural and historical purpose inherited in many government records.

The proposed change in House Bill 2112 would add Tribal cultural and historical purposes when appraising public records for retention, and I ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Representative Tawna Sanchez
House District 43- North and Northeast Portland