

SCR 31 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure commends the Legislative Commission on Indian Services on its 50th anniversary.

Fiscal impact: No impact

Revenue impact: No impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1975, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) was created to advise the Legislative Assembly and other state officials and agencies on the needs of American Indian people in Oregon. It embodies the State of Oregon's commitment to recognize the sovereignty of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, the existence of Oregon's American Indian communities and their respective needs.

Prior to the establishment of LCIS, there was no suitable mechanism in Oregon's state government to consider American Indian concerns directly. When it was established, LCIS was the first state commission of its kind in the nation: a permanent forum for consideration of tribal-state government relations and consultation.

LCIS is made up of 13 members who are appointed by each of the federally recognized tribes and confirmed by the Legislative Assembly, and it serves as a vital means of communication between state and tribal governments to inform their respective decision-making processes. It works closely with, and is composed of members representing, Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes: the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe and the Klamath Tribes.

LCIS serves as the main forum in which American Indian concerns are considered, as a conduit through which concerns are channeled through the network to the appropriate entity, as a point of access for finding out about state government programs and Indian communities and as a catalyst for bringing about change where change is needed. It holds meetings to familiarize its members with current problems American Indians are facing and to discuss possible solutions, and it often invites representatives of state or federal agencies to discuss their programs as they affect the Indian population in Oregon.

LCIS also monitors legislation affecting American Indians, both while it is being considered by the Legislative Assembly and after it becomes law, and it presents information to the Legislative Assembly on issues of importance to Indians in Oregon. It actively promotes intergovernmental cooperation and coordination as a means of enhancing the well-being of American Indians in Oregon.

In 2025, LCIS will mark its 50th year as a remarkable and groundbreaking public body making essential contributions to the State of Oregon and to Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.