

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 660

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE AND SENATOR BARROW

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:2305, relative to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs; to provide for the
3 creation of the Native American Commission within the Governor's Office of Indian
4 Affairs; to provide for the membership, duties, governance, compensation, and
5 powers of the commission; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 46:2305 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §2305. Native American Commission; creation; membership; compensation

9 A. The Native American Commission is hereby created within the
10 Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. The commission shall serve in an advisory
11 capacity to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

12 B. The following shall each appoint one member:

13 (1) Adai Caddo Indians of Louisiana.

14 (2) Bayou Lafourche Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw.

15 (3) Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana.

16 (4) Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb.

17 (5) Clifton Choctaw Tribe of Louisiana.

18 (6) Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana.

19 (7) Four-Winds Cherokee Tribe.

20 (8) Grand Caillou/Dulac Band.

21 (9) Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Tribe.

22 (10) Jena Band of Choctaw Indians.

1 (11) Louisiana Band of Choctaw Indians.

2 (12) Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana.

3 (13) Point au Chien Tribe.

4 (14) Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana.

5 (15) United Houma Nation.

6 C. The following members shall serve as ex officio members:

7 (1) The director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

8 (2) The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or designee.

9 (3) The state archeologist or his designee.

10 D. The commission may add state recognized tribes and federally recognized
11 tribes to its membership as tribes are officially granted state or federal recognition.

12 E. All appointments shall be made for four years except in cases where
13 appointees are unable to complete their terms. If a member is unable to complete his
14 term, the appointing entity shall appoint a member for the length of the unexpired
15 term.

16 F. The commission shall elect as officers a chairperson, vice chairperson,
17 and secretary from its membership. All officers shall serve for two years. The
18 commission shall create its own bylaws. The commission shall meet at least once
19 every quarter, and may meet more often as determined by the chairman.

20 G. A majority of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum. All
21 official business of the commission shall require the affirmative vote of not less than
22 a majority of the members present. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

23 H. Commission members shall not receive compensation or a per diem for
24 their services or attendance at council meetings, except for those travel related
25 expenses already provided for by their agency.

26 I. The commission shall be domiciled in East Baton Rouge Parish.

27 J. The commission shall do the following:

28 (1) Advise the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs regarding issues
29 pertaining to Native Americans.

1 (2) Identify the needs and concerns of the Native Americans in Louisiana
2 and bring such needs and concerns to the attention of the Governor's Office of Indian
3 Affairs.

4 (3) Make recommendations to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to
5 address the needs and concerns of Native Americans in Louisiana.

6 (4) Establish criteria for state tribe recognition and recommend criteria to the
7 Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and legislature for adoption and implementation.

8 (5) Review applications for the Office of Indian Affairs Scholarship and
9 recommend scholarship awardees to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

10 (6) Promote Native American culture, awareness, and education across the
11 state.

12 (7) Promote Native American Heritage Month in Louisiana.

13 (8) Conduct a comprehensive review of all state departments and agencies
14 to identify obstacles to the effective delivery of governmental services by all service
15 providers at all levels of government to Native Americans, propose methods for
16 removing those obstacles, and submit such proposals to the appropriate
17 governmental entity or entities.

18 K. The commission shall have authority to request consultation or
19 information, or both, from any state department or agency serving Native Americans.
20 The department or agency shall give priority to the request and shall provide the data
21 or assistance as requested. The commission shall maintain the confidentiality of any
22 information or records provided, as required by laws relative to such information and
23 records.

24 L. The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs shall assist as needed in providing
25 staff support for the council, including but not limited to the scheduling of meetings.

26 M. Legislation may be recommended by the commission to the Governor's
27 Office of Indian Affairs only upon approval by a two-thirds vote of the commission
28 members present. The commission shall not recommend legislation that would
29 impair ownership interests in any immovable property or any mineral rights
30 associated therewith.

1 N. The commission shall annually issue a report of its findings and
2 recommendations to the governor and legislature.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____