

March 2022 State Policy Update

This month, AIPi tracked the following state of Arizona legislature activities affecting Tribes and Tribal members for the month of March. This list includes legislation that was newly introduced or had other activity between February 21, 2022, and March 25, 2022.

Bills Considered by the State of Arizona 55th Legislature, Second Session:

1. **[SB1215](#) - “Establishing the Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.” Sponsored by Sen. Victoria Steele (D-9).**
 - This bill would establish the Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.
 - The committee would consist of Indigenous members of the Arizona community, among others.
 - Activities by the study committee would include:
 - Conducting a comprehensive study to determine how this state can reduce and end violence against indigenous peoples in this state.
 - Continuing to work with law enforcement to track and collect data on violence against indigenous peoples, including data on missing and murdered indigenous peoples.
 - Continuing to review policies, practices, prosecutorial trends, that impact violence against indigenous peoples.
 - Proposing measures to ensure access to culturally appropriate victim services for indigenous peoples who have been victims of violence.
 - Proposing legislation to address issues identified by the study committee.
 - Submitting a report regarding the study committee's activities and recommendations for administrative or legislative action on or before December 1, 2023, December 1, 2024, and December 1, 2025, to the governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives and provide a copy of these reports to the secretary of state.
 - Second reading in the Senate on March 3, 2022.

2. **[SCM1002](#) - “A Concurrent Memorial Urging the United States Congress to Implement Steps to Forward Fund the Higher Education Grant Program of the Bureau of Indian Education.” Sponsored by Sen. Theresa Hatathlie (D-7).**
 - This concurrent memorial would urge that:
 - The Members of the United States Congress take affirmative steps to forward fund the Higher Education Grant Program of the Bureau of Indian Education.
 - The Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.
 - Passed House Minority Caucus on March 8, 2022.

3. [**SB1194**](#) - **“An Act Amending Section 41-2053, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day.” Sponsored by Sen. Theresa Hatathlie (D-7).**
 - This Act would amend Section 41-2053 of the Arizona Revised Statutes relating to Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day to include the Legislative Indigenous Peoples Caucus as an additional entity to work in cooperation with the governor's office on tribal relations and representatives from this state's Indian nations.
 - Second reading in the Senate on March 9, 2022.

4. [**SCM1004**](#) - **“A Concurrent Memorial Urging the United States Department of the Interior to Investigate Former and Current Indian Boarding Schools in Arizona.” Sponsored By Sen. Victoria Steele (D-9).**
 - This concurrent memorial would urge that:
 - The United States Department of the Interior investigate all fifty-one former and current Indian boarding schools located in Arizona.
 - The United States Department of the Interior uses or designates the use of, ground-penetrating radar to look for unmarked graves and return any discovered remains to their families or tribes, as requested, for appropriate repatriation and burial.
 - The Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.
 - Transmitted to the House on March 14, 2022.

5. [**SB1300**](#) - **“An Act Amending Section 15-244.01, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to the Department Of Education.” Sponsored by Sen. Thomas Shope (R-8).**
 - This act amends Section 1. Section 15-244.01 of the Arizona Revised Statutes to include:
 - Books and instructional materials as costs that are allowed to be taken from the Tribal College Dual Enrollment Program Fund.
 - That the tribal college dual enrollment program may offer courses relating to Tribal language, government, and culture through intergovernmental agreements with high schools that are located outside of a reservation to student members of a tribe living off of the reservation and to other students.
 - Governor signed on March 18, 2022.

6. [**SB1003**](#) - **“A Concurrent Memorial Urging the United States Board on Geographic Names to Rename the Geographic Features in the Grand Canyon with Native American Names.” Sponsored by Sen. Paul D. Boyer (R-20).**
 - This concurrent memorial would urge that:
 - The United States Board on Geographic Names, rename the geographic features in the Grand Canyon with traditional Native American names.
 - The Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Chairperson of the United States Board on Geographic Names.

- Passed Senate LARA on March 21, 2022.
7. **[HB2647](#) - “An Act Amending Section 8-455, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to the Department Of Child Safety.” Sponsored by Rep. Joanne Osborne (R-13).**
- This act would amend section 8-455 of the Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to include that the department may transfer the DCS report to the reservation's tribal social services agency if the department prepares a DCS report regarding an Indian child who resides or is domiciled on an Indian reservation.
 - Senate Committee on the Whole action was retained on March 22, 2022.
8. **[SB1660](#) - “An Act Amending Sections 28-2351 And 28-2403, Arizona Revised Statutes; Amending Title 28, Chapter 7, Article 12, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding Section 28-2470.10; Amending Sections 28-6501, 28-6991 and 28-6993, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to Special Plates.” Sponsored By Sen. Sally Gonzales (D-3).**
- This act would amend Sec. 3. Title 28, chapter 7, article 12, Arizona Revised Statutes by adding section 28-2470.10, to include that the department shall issue Pascua Yaqui Tribe special plates if, by December 31, 2022, a person pays \$32,000 to the appropriate department.
 - Amendments also include new fee information.
 - Passed Senate TRANS Committee on March 23, 2022.