

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2231
Version:	Introduced
Author:	Rep. Jett
Date:	February 19, 2009
Impact:	\$0

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Dusty Darr

This measure creates the cabinet position of Secretary of Native American Affairs. The Secretary is to have authority over Native American issues and state and tribal relations. In addition, the measure requires 15 state agencies to appoint a tribal liaison to advise the agencies on any matters relating to interactions with Native Americans and tribal governments. Agencies required to appoint a tribal liaison are not required to employ an additional person for the position and may assign the liaison duties to an existing position or employee within the agency. The Secretary is also required to make a report on the interaction between state agencies and tribal governments and make recommendations on the expansion of the tribal liaison position to additional state agencies.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: David Ligon

HB 2231 creates a Secretary of Native American Affairs or successor cabinet position with authority over Native American issues and state and tribal relations and outlines powers and duties of the Secretary. The bill requires a list of state agencies to name a tribal liaison position within the agency to coordinate activities with the Secretary. The measure states that the agencies listed are not to employ an additional person for the tribal liaison positions, but to utilize an existing position or employee within the agency.

Fiscal Analysis

Cabinet level positions are determined by the Governor and paid traditionally paid out of their Executive Office funds or existing funds of a given state agency. In many cases, cabinet Secretary serve dual positions (such as an agency Director), but have not always done so. Irrespective of whether the individual serves in a dual position, the Legislature has not appropriated specific funds for a cabinet level position or allowed an agency to pay a dual salary for an individual serving in such a capacity. Additionally, HB 2231 requires the agencies coordinating with the Secretary of Native American Affairs to not employ an additional person to the agency tribal position, so there will be no additional costs to the agencies for the tribal liaison.

Based on the past practice in regards to filling Cabinet Secretary positions and the specific prohibition of employing an additional person to serve as a agency tribal liaison, there is no fiscal impact to the measure, as written.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

The establishment of Secretary of Native American Affairs position may improve relations between the tribes, the State of Oklahoma, and various state agencies. Depending on the specific individual named to serve as Secretary, there might be some confusion or conflict of responsibilities between the Secretary and the Office of Indian Affairs Commission.

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director