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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Ways and Means Reports H.R. 3080 Out of Committee

Yesterday, June 15, 2016, the U.S. House of Representatives House Ways and Means Committee favorably reported the Tribal Employment and Jobs Protection Act ([H.R. 3080](#)) out of Committee on a vote of 24 to 13.

This legislation, introduced by Representative Kristi Noem (R-SD), seeks to exempt Tribes and Tribal employers from the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). It would prevent fines that Tribal employers would incur under the employer mandate and ensure that the U.S. federal government lives up to its trust responsibility to Federally Recognized Tribes.

The legislation will move on to the full House of Representatives where additional support and outreach will be critical to its success.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

IHS Announces Strategy to Improve Quality Health Care Delivery

On June 15, 2016, the Indian Health Service (IHS) Principle Deputy Director, Mary Smith, announced a new strategy to improve quality health care delivery with the in the Indian Health System.

The strategy includes five major areas:

- Assessing Care
- Improving How We Deliver Services
- Strengthening Management
- Brining Health Care Quality Expertise to IHS
- Engaging Local Resources

To download Ms. Smith's letter announcing the strategy, [click here](#).

BIA Launches New, Interactive Tribal Leaders Directory

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) launched its popular publication, the Tribal Leaders Directory, as an electronic searchable map on Monday, June 13, 2016. The map provides up-to-date contact information for the nation's 567 Federally Recognized Tribes and all BIA regional offices and agencies.

The Directory's new format is a searchable interactive map where users can click on icons to locate tribal governments and BIA offices across the United States. Some of the features of the new map-based Directory allow users to:

- Have actual locations for all points of contact.
- Conduct quick electronic searches of the entire Directory with just a few key strokes.
- Produce mail merge documents with only the information needed.
- Group data visually by BIA regions for creating maps, reports, dashboards, or web pages.
- Access information that is updated more frequently than in the past.
- Download information in .csv, .xml, .json, and MS Excel formats.

[The map can be accessed here.](#)

TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND COMMENT REQUESTS

DOI SGAC Submits Comments on the BIA Draft CSC Policy

On June 13, 2016 the Department of the Interior Self-Governance Advisory Committee (DOI-SGAC) submitted formal comments on the proposed BIA Contract Support Costs (CSC) Policy.

Comments on the [proposed policy](#) are due July 29, 2016 and may be electronically submitted to consultation@bia.gov.

[Click here](#) to download the SGAC comments.

DOI Announces Consultations on Regulations Governing Probate

DOI will host two teleconference consultation sessions to solicit input on three areas of the probate process to immediately impact the process.

The consultations schedule is below:

- Tuesday, July 12, 2016: 2:00-4:00 PM Eastern
- Wednesday, July 13, 2016: 2:00-4:00 PM Eastern

Each session will use the following call in information:

Call-in Number: (800) 857-7479

Passcode: 6543434

Written comments will be accepted until August 1, 2016. Comments can be submitted electronically to consultation@bia.gov.

For more information about the consultations, [click here](#).

VA Announces Tribal Consultation to Establish Top Tribal Priorities

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking input from Tribal leaders on the top 3 to 5 priorities that Tribes have for serving Veterans in Indian Country. These priorities, once identified, will be used to assist in the development of an Indian Country Veterans Affairs policy agenda.

The first consultation will be hosted on Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 5:15 PM at the Spokane Convention Center, at 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99201 in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference.

A second in-person consultation will be scheduled at a later date. However, written comments will be collected until October 7, 2016 and may be submitted electronically tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov.

To learn more, [click here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 19-21: Quarterly Self-Governance Advisory Committee Meetings

Join the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee and DOI Self-Governance Advisory Committee for their July Quarterly Advisory Committee Meetings in Washington, DC.

DOI SGAC: July 19-20, 2016

IHS TSGAC: July 20-21, 2016

Host Hotel

Embassy Suites Washington DC Convention Center
900 10th Street NW
Washington, District of Columbia, 20001

[Book your room online here for the SGCE rate.](#)

July 21: United States Sentencing Commission Hosts Tribal Public Hearing

The United States Sentencing Commission will host a public hearing on Thursday, July 21, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The public hearing will be held at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle, N.E., Washington, DC in Suite 2-500 (South Lobby).

The purpose of the public hearing is for the Commission to receive testimony from members of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group (TIAG) on its final report addressing federal sentencing issues related to American Indian defendants and victims and to offenses committed in Indian Country. The TIAG will present findings and any subsequent recommendations for amending the federal sentencing guidelines.

[The TIAG's final report is available here.](#)

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