

SENATE BILL NO. 217

INTRODUCED BY

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE INDIAN CHILD
6 WELFARE SPECIALIST TO ALLOW APPOINTMENT OF A QUALIFIED PERSON; REQUIRING NOTIFICATION
7 OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS; AMENDING SECTION 52-2-117, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
8 EFFECTIVE DATE."

9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11

Section 1. Section 52-2-117, MCA, is amended to read:

13 "52-2-117. Indian child welfare specialist. (1) The director of the department shall appoint a
14 qualified ~~employee of the department~~ person to act as an Indian child welfare specialist.

15 (2) The duties of the specialist include:

16 (1)(a) developing Indian foster homes and other Indian placement resources;

17 (2)(b) providing technical advice to tribal, state, and county agencies and district courts on matters
18 pertaining to Indian child welfare;

{3}(c) providing assistance in negotiating cooperative agreements to provide foster care services to Indian children;

21 (4)(d) conducting training seminars on implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25
22 U.S.C. 1901, et seq.);

23 (e) applying for and accepting grants and other funds for Indian child welfare activities;

24 (6)(f) developing and maintaining a list of attorneys to represent indigent parents and Indian
25 custodians in Indian child welfare proceedings;

26 (7)(g) making recommendations to the department on legislation and rules concerning Indian child
27 welfare matters; and

(8)(h) performing other duties concerning Indian child welfare matters as determined by the director."

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SB 217
INTRODUCED BILL

1 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification of tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send
2 a copy of [this act] to the tribal chairperson of each of the seven Montana reservations and to the tribal
3 chairperson of the Little Shell tribe.

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5 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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