

***Details of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act (SB 196)**

Endorsed by the Interim Indian Affairs Committee, Governor Richardson's "State-Tribal Collaboration Act" builds on the governor's 2003 Statement of Policy and Process and Executive Order 2005-004 by moving into state statute a proven structure for effective government-to-government communication and collaboration between state and tribal governments. Annual tribal-state consultation summits, tribal liaisons and formal communication through the use of the pilot state consultation policies have prompted an improvement in services to our New Mexico Native American citizens and enhancements to state agency interactions with tribal governments. Now the STCA creates greater consistency across state government and ensures that this effective structure continues into future administrations. The STCA requires:

- Annual Summit - The governor and the 22 tribal leaders will be required to meet annually to address issues of mutual concern.
- Communication and Collaboration Policies - All 34 cabinet-level agencies are required to implement policies that promote positive government-to-government relations with tribal governments.
- Tribal Liaisons - All cabinet-level agencies are required to designate a tribal liaison as a point of contact to ensure compliance with the proposed legislation, have regular contact with the agency's cabinet secretary or their office, and maintain ongoing communication with the Tribes.
- Training for State Employees – In order to give state agency managers and employees the greatest chance for success in working with their tribal counterparts, those who have regular contact with tribes will be provided training through the State Personnel Office. This training, which will be designed in collaboration with Indian Affairs Department ("IAD").
- An Annual Report – Each cabinet-level agency is required to submit an annual report to the Governor's Office through IAD on that agency's implementation of the Act and listing the programs and services directly affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives. IAD will be responsible for compiling these into an annual report that will be submitted to the Governor's Office and the state legislature.

The STCA will allow for proactive identification of common issue areas and strategies to address them. It will lead to improvements in the design and accountability of state programs and services to 11% of our state's population. It will expedite the expenditure of state funds to benefit Native American communities and support greater collaboration of federal, tribal and state funding and resources to improve the quality of life of all New Mexicans.