

Senate Bill 2056
Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony Presented by Sara Behrens
January 8, 2025

Good afternoon Chair Larson, members of the committee. My name is Sara Behrens and I am a staff attorney with the State Court Administrator's Office. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2056. This bill provides a procedure for waiver of appearance in front of a judge when someone is arrested on a tribal warrant. The majority of tribal warrants are extraditable and once notified of the defendant being held on a tribal warrant, the defendant is typically picked up within a day.

There is an expense to the counties to hold individuals on tribal warrants and it does not appear that the tribes are being billed for the time spent in custody on a regular basis. Judge Joseph Vetsch, Chief Judge of the Spirit Lake Tribal Court has indicated that in 2023 there were 67 extraditions and 56 of those were from Spirit Lake. This process has worked well in Spirit Lake Tribal Court with an almost 100% waiver rate for those on warrants out of Ramsey County.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge a do pass.