



North Dakota Senate

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Senator Richard Marcellais

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COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation
Agriculture and Veterans Affairs

HB 1581

Chairman Luick, members of the Senate Agriculture/Veterans Affairs Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, North Dakota State Senator in District 9.

Today I am here to testify in favor of HB 1581, to provide an appropriation to the Department of Commerce for Tribal Tourism Grants.

North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance (NDNTA) started in 2016 is a nonprofit organization committed to protecting, preserving, promoting and education the world about the Native American culture, history and environment of the five (5) Tribal Native nations in North Dakota.

North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance includes Spirit Lake Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Mandan Hidatsa Arikara (MHA) Nation, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

MISSION

To promote sustainable tourism and developing economic opportunities for Native people and Sovereign Nations. Committed to preserve, protect promote, and educate travelers of the culture, history, and environment of each North Dakota Tribal Nation.

VISION

To enhance and promote Tribal Tourism as a means of economic development and growth for all North Dakota Tribal Nations, while maintaining respect for Sovereignty, tribal traditions and lands. Tourism is 3rd leading sources of economic impact for North Dakota. The 2023 economic impact was \$3.3 billion dollars within North Dakota including our Tribal Nations.

Chairman Luick members of the Agriculture/Veteran Affairs committee I would like you to consider the attached amendment to put HB 1581 back to its original state.

Chairman Luick members of the Committee I ask for your positive vote on HB 1581. I will try an answer any questions you may have.

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1581

Introduced by

Representatives Finley-DeVille, Brown, Davis, Ista

Senators Mathern, Walen

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for tribal tourism
2 grants; and to provide for a legislative management report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - TRIBAL TOURISM**
5 **GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.** There is
6 appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
7 appropriated, the sum of ~~\$100,000~~\$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
8 the department of commerce for the purpose of providing tribal tourism grants, for the biennium
9 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. A tribal government in the state may apply to
10 the department of commerce for a grant of up to ~~\$20,000~~\$100,000 to match funds committed by
11 a tribal government to promote and enhance tribal nation tourism opportunities. A grant
12 application must include a plan for using funds to promote and enhance tribal nation tourism
13 opportunities to be overseen by the department of commerce division of tourism. The
14 department of commerce shall report to legislative management regarding the distribution, use,
15 and impact of grants. The funding provided in this section is considered a onetime funding item.