

**2025 HOUSE AGRICULTURE**

**HB 1545**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1545  
1/30/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 1-03-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to changing the name of First Nations Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

4:19 p.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Member Absent: Representative Olson

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Honor the Indigenous people
- Uniformity
- Unifying term
- National movement
- 2021 National change
- Indigenous peoples
- Tribal people in ND

4:19 p.m. Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille, District 4A, Mandaree, ND, introduced and testified.

4:29 p.m. Representative Collette Brown, District 9, Warwick, ND, testified in favor and submitted testimony #33055.

4:34 p.m. Carel Two Eagles, Parmelee, SD, testified in favor.

## **Additional written testimony:**

Senator Richard Marcellais, District 9, Belcourt, ND submitted testimony in favor #32647.

4:43 p.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

Senator Richard Marcellais  
Senate District 9  
Testimony for HB 1545

Chairman Beltz members of the House Agriculture Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais North Dakota State Senator in District 9.

HB 1545, relating to changing the name of First Nations Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

On October 12th, First Nations is proud to stand with Native communities across this nation in honor of Indigenous People's Day. This day, which began as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day, raises awareness of the true history of the United States while celebrating the culture and resilience of Native People.

In 2016, First Nations launched ground breaking research into America's perceptions - and misperceptions about Native Americans. Here it was uncovered that the majority of information that people have about Native people is not true and oftentimes based in stereotypes or historical myth. Invisibility, inaccurate school education curricula, and lack of Native representation across all aspects of American life contribute to the misconceptions and misbeliefs that most Americans hold about Native American people.

HB 1545 is requesting the change from First Nations Day to Indigeous Peoples Day to honor the Native American Nations in North Dakota. I am requesting a Do Pass on HB 1545.

## Testimony in Support of House Bill 1545

Honorable Chairman Beltz, and Committee Members, for the record my name Collette Brown, Representative from District 9 which includes the TMBCI and SLT on behalf of Spirit Lake Nation Chairwoman Lonna J. Street

My name is Lonna J. Street, and I am the Chairwoman of the Spirit Lake Nation. I express my strong support for House Bill 1545, which proposes renaming "First Nations Day" to "Indigenous Peoples Day" in North Dakota.

The term "Indigenous Peoples" is widely recognized and encompasses all Native American tribes and communities. Adopting "Indigenous Peoples Day" aligns North Dakota with a growing national movement to honor the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. This change not only acknowledges the diverse Indigenous communities within our state but also promotes inclusivity and respect for all Native peoples.

Across the United States, numerous states and municipalities have transitioned to recognizing "Indigenous Peoples Day" in place of or alongside other observances. This shift reflects a broader commitment to honoring Indigenous histories and addressing past injustices. By adopting this designation, North Dakota joins a collective effort to celebrate and respect Indigenous cultures and contributions.

Within our state, there has been a growing call from tribal citizens and advocates to make this change. Recognizing "Indigenous Peoples Day" resonates deeply with our communities and reflects a commitment to inclusivity and respect for all Native peoples. This change is not merely symbolic; it represents a step toward greater understanding and unity among all residents of North Dakota.

House Bill 1545 presents an opportunity for North Dakota to honor its Indigenous communities appropriately and align with a national movement that recognizes the importance of Indigenous contributions to our society. I urge the committee to support this bill, demonstrating our state's commitment to inclusivity, respect, and the celebration of all its people.

Thank You

Lonna J. Street  
Chairwoman  
Spirit Lake Nation

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Agriculture Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1545  
2/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 1-03-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to changing the name of First Nations Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

11:04 a.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Henderson, Holle, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer  
Members Absent: Representative Dobervich, Hoverson

### Discussion Topics:

- ND Day
- Respect intentions & verbiage

11:06 a.m. Representative Anderson moved Do Pass.

11:06 a.m. Representative Nehring seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	AB
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	AB
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Daniel R. Vollmer	Y

Motion passed 12-0-2.

11:06 a.m. Representative Rios will carry the bill.

11:06 a.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1545 ([25.1299.01000](#))**

**Agriculture Committee (Rep. Beltz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1545 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2025 SENATE INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS**

**HB 1545**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Industry and Business Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1545  
3/25/2025

A bill relating to changing the name of First Nations Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.
--

3:10 p.m. Chairman Barta opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Barta, Vice-Chair Boehm, Senator Klein, Senator Kessel, Senator Enget

### Discussion Topics:

- Inclusivity and broadness
- National alignment
- Celebration of cultural heritage
- Other states with similar legislature
- Presidential Proclamation
- Recognition of Indigenous histories

3:10 p.m. Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille, District 4A, testified in favor, introduced the bill, and submitted testimony #43753.

3:15 p.m. Representative Collette Brown, District 9, testified in favor and submitted testimony #43802.

3:18 p.m. Chairman Barta closed the hearing.

3:18 p.m. Senator Klein moved a Do Pass.

3:18 p.m. Senator Boehm seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	A
Senator Jerry Klein	Y

Motion passed 4-0-1.

Senator Boehm will carry the bill.

3:19 p.m. Chairman Barta closed the hearing.

*Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1545 ([25.1299.01000](#))**

**Industry and Business Committee (Sen. Barta, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (4 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1545 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Lisa Finley-DeVile

District 4A  
P.O. Box 501  
Mandaree, ND 58757-0501  
[lfinleydeville@ndlegis.gov](mailto:lfinleydeville@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Industry, Business and Labor  
Transportation

Chairman Barta, and members of the Senate Industry, Business, and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to present this important bill before you today. As the sponsor of HB 1545, I stand before you to advocate for a change that will honor and recognize the rich history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous people in North Dakota and throughout the United States.

This bill seeks to amend Section 1-03-13 of the North Dakota Century Code to change the name of "First Nations Day" to "Indigenous people Day." This name change reflects a broader, more inclusive acknowledgment of the diverse Indigenous nations that have historically inhabited this land and continue to shape our communities in meaningful ways.

For generations, the Indigenous people of North Dakota have contributed to the development, culture, and strength of our state. Whether through the resilience of our Native communities, the preservation of traditions, Indigenous people play an integral role in our state's identity and future.

However, our current observance—First Nations Day—while important, does not fully capture the diversity of the Indigenous populations across North America. Changing the name to Indigenous people Day is not simply a matter of semantics. It is a statement of respect, acknowledgment, and unity. This change recognizes that all Indigenous communities—whether they be Dakota, Lakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara or from any other tribe or nation—have made unique and shared contributions to the fabric of our society.

This bill is a step toward greater understanding, and healing for all North Dakotans. It aligns our state with national efforts to officially recognize Indigenous people Day across the United States, a celebration of cultural heritage and the ongoing work to overcome centuries of difficulty and hardships.

I ask the committee to give a do pass recommendation for House Bill 1545, and I look forward to working with all of you to continue building a state that honors and elevates the voices of Indigenous people.

Thank you.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## **Representative Collette Brown**

District 9 (SLT/TMBCI)  
3395 89th Avenue NE  
Warwick, ND, 58381-9409  
[cbrown@ndlegis.gov](mailto:cbrown@ndlegis.gov)

## **COMMITTEES:**

Industry, Business and Labor  
Government and Veterans Affairs

March 25, 2025

Chairman Barta and Committee Members for the record my name is Collette Brown Representative from District 9 which encompasses two of the five Tribes in ND, the TMBC and SLT.

I stand before you today to urge your support for House Bill 1545,

The phrase "Indigenous Peoples" carries significant weight, representing all Native American tribes and communities. Embracing "Indigenous Peoples Day" positions North Dakota within a transformative national movement dedicated to honoring the rich histories, cultures, and invaluable contributions of Indigenous peoples. This change is vital not only for recognizing the diverse Indigenous communities in our state but also for fostering inclusivity and respect for all Native peoples.

Across the nation, numerous states and municipalities have taken the important step of recognizing "Indigenous Peoples Day" alongside or in place of other observances. This shift symbolizes a profound commitment to honoring Indigenous histories and addressing past injustices. By adopting this designation, North Dakota would join a unified effort to celebrate and uplift Indigenous cultures and their essential contributions to our society.

Within our state, there is an increasing call from tribal citizens and advocates for this pivotal change. Recognizing "Indigenous Peoples Day" deeply resonates with our communities, signifying a commitment to inclusivity and respect for all Native peoples. This initiative is far more than a symbolic gesture; it represents a crucial step toward fostering greater understanding and unity among all residents of North Dakota.

House Bill 1545 is an opportunity for North Dakota to appropriately honor its Indigenous communities and align itself with a national movement that recognizes the significant impact of Indigenous contributions to our society. I strongly urge the committee to support this bill, demonstrating our state's dedication to inclusivity, respect, and the celebration of all our diverse peoples.

Thank you for your time and consideration.