

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## Health & Human Services Finance & Policy Committee

Health and Human Services Committee  
Tuesday, February 7th, 2023  
8:30am Livestream YouTube

### Minutes

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**Present:** Senator Melissa H. Wiklund- Chair, Senator Alice Mann – Vice Chair, Senator Paul Utke – Minority Lead, Senator Jim Abeler, Senator Liz Boldon, Senator Rob Kupec, Senator Kelly Morrison

**Absent:** Senator John Hoffman, Senator Bill Lieske.

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Chair Mann called the meeting to order at 8:33am on Tuesday, February 7th, 2023, in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #1: SF 667 (KUNESH): Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act modifications**

The first bill up on the agenda was S.F. 667, authored by Senator Kunesh as follows:

S.F. 667 (Kunesh): Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act modifications

Senator Kunesh offered the A1 Authors Amendment

Senator Kunesh explained the A1 Amendment.

Senator Boldon moved the A1 Amendment.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVALIED AND THE A1 AUTHORS AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Senator Kunesh provided opening comments and explained Senate File 667, as amended, to the committee.

#### **The following individuals testified on S.F. 667:**

- Larissa LittleWolf, Associate Director of the Tribal Training and Certification Partnership, testified in support of S.F. 667.
- Emelie Esther Rivera, Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Board Member, testified in support of S.F. 667.
- Laurie Lynn York, Executive Director of White Earth Nation, testified in support of S.F. 667.
- Robert Larson, President of Lower Sioux Community County, testified in support of S.F. 667
- Chairman Faron Jackson Sr., Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, testified in support of S.F. 667.
- Chairman Kevin R Dupuis Sr., Fond Du Lac Reservation, testified in support of S.F. 667
- Nishah Dupuis, Indian Child Welfare Supervisor, testified in support of S.F. 667.
- Gertrude Buckanaga, Executive Director of Upper Midwest American Indian Center, testified in support of S.F. 667

Senator Utke asked a question about a Fiscal Note for S.F. 667

Senator Abeler spoke to S.F. 667.

#### **Continuation of testimony:**

- Sherry Johnson, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member, testified in support of S.F. 667.
- Bobbi Jo Potter, Indian Child Welfare Program Manager – Ramsey County & Member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, testified in support of S.F. 667.
- Rebecca McConkey Greene, Associate Judge Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe of S.F. 667.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Mann spoke to S.F. 667.

Senator Abeler spoke to S.F. 667 and asked a question the standards of MFIPA and ICWA.

Rebecca McConkey Greene, Associate Judge Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, answered Senator Abeler's questions.

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Rebecca McConkey Greene provided clarification on certain provisions listed in ICWA.

Senator Boldon spoke to S.F. 667.

Senator Boldon moved that Senate File 667, as amended, be recommended to pass and be re-referred to the committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND SENATE FILE 667, AS AMENDED WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY.**

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:03am.

*Melissa H. Wiklund*

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Senator Melissa H. Wiklund

*Hailey Ryan*

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Hailey Ryan, Legislative Assistant