

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Select Committee on Indian Affairs was created on February 4, 1977, by the adoption of Senate Resolution 4 of the 95th Congress. It was established as a temporary select committee to "cease to exist at the close of the Ninety-fifth Congress." The life of the committee was then extended several times, and on June 6, 1984, the Senate acted to make the Select Committee permanent. It is the duty of the committee to study problems of the Indians generally and to report to the Senate by bill or resolution any proposed legislation it sees fit to recommend.

Senate Resolution 4, 95th Congress, as Amended

[Select Committee on Indian Affairs]

SEC. 105. (a)(1) There is established a temporary Select Committee on Indian Affairs (hereafter in this section referred to as the "select committee") which shall consist of ten members, six to be appointed by the President of the Senate, upon the recommendation of the majority leader, from among members of the majority party and four to be appointed by the President of the Senate, upon the recommendation of the minority leader, from among members of the minority party. The select committee shall select a chairman from among its members.

(2) A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum thereof for the transaction of business, except that the select committee may fix a lesser number as a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony. The select committee shall adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with this section and the rules of the Senate governing standing committees of the Senate.

(3) Vacancies in the membership of the select committee shall not affect the authority of the remaining members to execute the functions of the select committee.

(4) For purposes of paragraph 4 of rule XXV of the Standing Committees of the Senate, service of a Senator as a member or chairman of the select committee shall not be taken into account.

(b)(1) All proposed legislation messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to Indian affairs shall be referred to the select committee.

(2) It shall be the duty of the select committee to conduct a study of any and all matters pertaining to problems and opportunities of Indians, including but not limited to, Indian land management and trust

responsibilities, Indian education, health, special services, and loan programs, and Indian claims against the United States.

(3) The select committee shall from time to time report to the Senate, by bill or otherwise, its recommendations with respect to matters referred to the select committee or otherwise within its jurisdiction.

(c)(1) For the purposes of this section, the select committee is authorized, in its discretion, (A) to make investigations into any matter within its jurisdiction, (B) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (C) to employ personnel, (D) to hold hearings, (E) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate, (F) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents, (G) to take depositions, and other testimony, (H) to procure the services of individual consultants or organizations thereof, in accordance with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and (I) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(2) The chairman of the select committee or any member thereof may administer oaths to witnesses.

(3) Subpenas authorized by the select committee may be issued over the signature of the chairman, or any member of the select committee designated by the chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman or the member signing the subpoena.

Jurisdiction:

The jurisdiction of the committee is as follows:

(1) All proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to Indian affairs shall be referred to the select committee.

(2) It shall be the duty of the select committee to conduct a study of any and all matters pertaining to problems and opportunities of Indians, including but not limited to, Indian land management and trust responsibilities, Indian education, health, special services, and loan programs, and Indian claims against the United States.

(3) The select committee shall from time to time report to the Senate, by bill or otherwise, its recommendations with respect to matters referred to the select committee or otherwise within its jurisdiction.

Work of Committee:

Pursuant to the authority set forth above, the committee has considered over two hundred and fifty legislative proposals falling within its jurisdiction as defined above, which were referred to it since its creation in 1977, until the end of the 100th Congress in 1987. The committee reported to the Senate approximately one hundred fifty-

five of the measures referred to it and one hundred of such measures, both public and private, have become law. The committee during that period held nearly a hundred meetings of which roughly three-fourths of them were hearings on legislative matters.