

# Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5336

AN ACT APPLYING THE PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT TO CHILD CUSTODY, PLACEMENT, ADOPTION AND TERMINATION OF

**Title:** PARENTAL RIGHTS PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING AN INDIAN CHILD.

**Vote Date:** 3/24/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/10/2022

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Human Services Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

H.B. 5336 will ensure that the money and services available through the Indian Child Welfare Act still apply to child custody, placement, adoption, and termination of parental rights proceedings when an Indian child is involved. This bill will close a loophole that could prevent Indian children from receiving the provisions they are entitled to because of untraditional guardianship.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Chairman of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, Mitchel Ray**, supports this bill because traumatic events such as children being removed from their birth families could have been avoided if there were protections in place like the ICWA bill. Additionally, federal resources could have been provided to help with housing, healthcare, and overall economic stability. Ray urges passage of the bill because it could be the first step in solving generational trauma.

**Member of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation in Kent, Melissa Wesaw**, supports this bill because regardless of adoption, termination of rights or divorce, recognizing where a child

comes from and the importance of keeping them with their family where their heritage and culture exist is extremely important. Not supporting this bill will bring harm to Indian children.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Molly Lukiwsky**

**Date: 3/28/2022**