



Jeff Mursau

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 36TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
January 11, 2018

AB 114: Battery of a tribal judge, tribal prosecutor, or tribal law enforcement officer

State statute directs the Joint Legislative Council to create, in each biennium, a Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations. For the past several sessions, I have had the honor of serving as Chair of this committee.

At our last meeting, the committee approved 3 pieces of legislation that are now being considered by the legislature. AB 114 is before you today.

It is often the case that when bill drafts are introduced they do not contain language that explicitly includes the tribes living in Wisconsin. It isn't intentional, but it is important we extend the same opportunities and/or protections given to Wisconsin citizens to members of our tribes.

Under current law, it is a Class H felony to intentionally cause or threaten to cause bodily harm to a judge, prosecutor, or law enforcement officer or a member of their family if the actor knows the person is a judge, prosecutor, or law enforcement officer and the act or threat is made in response to any action taken by a judge, prosecutor, or law enforcement officer in an official capacity.

Assembly Bill 114 adds tribal judge, tribal prosecutor, and tribal law enforcement officer to the definitions of judge, prosecutor, and law enforcement officer for the purposes of this crime.

This bill passed the state Assembly on a voice vote last fall. On behalf of the State and Tribal Relations Committee, I would appreciate the committee's support to move the bill forward.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Legislative Council staff to the State and Tribal Relations committee, is also here to answer questions.