Indian Commission

The Indian Affairs Commission was created in 1965 by Chapter 331, Statutes of Nevada, for the purpose of studying matters affecting American Indians residing in Nevada, including issues of federal and state control, responsibility, policy, and operations affecting Indians. The Commission recommends necessary or appropriate action, policy, legislation or revision of legislation, and administrative regulations to the governor, legislature and to the public. (Section 10).

The name of the Commission was changed to the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) by Chapter 240, Statutes of Nevada, 1973. Under NRS 233A.090, the purpose of the NIC is to study matters affecting the social and economic welfare and well-being of American Indian tribes and individuals residing in Nevada. Functions of the NIC are generally limited to study and recommendation. The Commission consists of an executive director and five commissioners appointed by the governor. Three commissioners are Indians and two members are representatives of the general public. The Commission was part of the Department of Human Resources for limited administrative purposes, though it was considered a "stand alone" entity not controlled by the Department (Attorney General Opinion 2000-35, 12-13-2000). In 2011, the Nevada Indian Commission became part of the new Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs under NRS 231.160.