

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO MEETINGS OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS

I. Who are the members of the Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns?

The Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. Five members shall be American Indians. Three members shall represent the scientific community and shall include at least one archeologist and one anthropologist; provided, however, that if no anthropologist can be identified who is willing to serve, then the membership reserved to an anthropologist shall be filled by a person who holds a master's degree or a higher degree in the field of anthropology and is currently active in the profession. One member shall be selected from the general public at large. All members of the council shall be legal residents of the State of Georgia. The Governor shall consult the tribal groups located in the state recognized by general law, the Human Relations Commission, the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists, the Society for Georgia Archaeology, and the Department of Natural Resources for recommendations before appointing members of the Council.

II. Georgia Code §44-12-283.1. Powers and Duties of the Council

- The Council shall have the following powers and duties:
 - (1) To serve as a resource for the notification of relatives under paragraph (4) of Code Section 36-72-5, relating to notification of relatives pursuant to obtaining a permit for land use change or disturbance; provided, however, that failure of the Council to respond within 30 days to a request to serve as a resource for the notification shall not prevent the notification process or any permit process from taking place;
 - (2) To receive notice of permits issued and contracts issued under subsection (c) of Code Section 12-3-52 that affect aboriginal, prehistoric, or American Indian burial sites;
 - (3) To monitor the inventory and identification process conducted under Code Section 44-12-261 to ensure a fair, objective consideration and assessment of all available relevant information and evidence;
 - (4) To facilitate the resolution of disputes among American Indian tribes, lineal descendants of American Indians, and museums relating to the return of American Indian remains and burial objects pursuant to Code Section 44-12-262, including convening the parties to the dispute;
 - (5) To advise the Department of Natural Resources, the General Assembly, the Human Relations Commission, the Secretary of State, local political subdivisions, state and local law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate agencies and individuals regarding policy matters relating to issues affecting American Indians;
 - (6) To apply for and receive grants, gifts, and direct appropriations from the federal government; the state government; any county, municipal, or local

government; any board, bureau, commission, agency, or establishment of any such government; any other organization, public or private; and any individual or groups of individuals; and

- (7) To preserve and foster the culture and heritage of Indians and Indian descendants in this state and to be the agency to deal with specific federal programs which are required to be dealt with only by an Indian agency or organization.

III. Georgia Code §44-12-283.1. Additional Powers of the Council

In addition to any other powers granted by law, the Council may, in its discretion, study, consider, accumulate, compile, assemble, and disseminate information on any aspect of Indian affairs; investigate relief needs of Indians in Georgia and provide technical assistance in the preparation of plans for the alleviation of such needs; confer with appropriate officials of local, state, and federal governments, and agencies of these governments, and with such congressional committees that may be concerned with Indian affairs, in order to encourage and implement coordination of applicable resources to meet the needs of Indians in Georgia; cooperate with and secure the assistance of the local, state, and federal governments, or any agencies thereof, in formulating any such programs and coordinate such programs with any programs regarding Indian affairs adopted or planned by the federal government, to the end that the department secures the full benefit of such programs; review all proposed or pending state legislation and amendments to existing state legislation affecting Indians in Georgia; conduct public hearings on matters relating to Indian affairs; study the existing status of recognition of all Indian groups, tribes, and communities presently existing in the state; expend funds in compliance with state regulations; and make legislative recommendations.

IV. When and where does the Council meet?

The Council holds regular meetings throughout the year. Those dates are posted on the Council's website at www.georgiaindiancouncil.com. The Council's schedule of meetings and the places for those meetings are posted on the Council's website. The schedule is subject to change at the Chairman's discretion.

V. How may you address the Council?

The Council's Chairman determines the agenda for each meeting. The printed agenda is posted on the Council's website. If you wish to address the Council on an item that is on the agenda, you may sign the appropriate sign-in sheet when you attend the meeting. The Chairman will call on you at the appropriate time.

Appearances before the Council are limited to five minutes per person, unless otherwise stated. The Council asks that you present your position in writing as well,

along with any supporting materials you wish to submit. Your written position and supporting material should be given to the Council's Administrative Assistant. Please limit the number of people in a group who wish to speak on the same subject.