
HOUSE BILL 1356

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Lekanoff, Dolan, Davis, Ramos, Fitzgibbon, Callan, Simmons, Lovick, Berg, Ormsby, Bateman, Bergquist, Goodman, Macri, Ramel, Harris-Talley, and Pollet

Read first time 01/25/21. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the inappropriate use of Native
2 American names, symbols, or images as public school mascots, logos,
3 or team names; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the use of
7 racially derogatory or discriminatory school mascots, logos, or team
8 names in public schools is antithetical to their mission of providing
9 an equal education to all, and contrary to the goal of making schools
10 safe and respectful learning environments.

11 (2) The legislature finds also that certain mascots, logos, or
12 team names that are or have been used by schools and other entities
13 are uniquely discriminatory in singling out the Native American
14 community for derision and cultural appropriation.

15 (3) Although the inappropriate use of Native American names,
16 symbols, or images may be premised on the promotion of unity or
17 school spirit, their use fails to respect the cultural heritage of
18 Native Americans and promote productive relationships between
19 sovereign governments. Furthermore, numerous individuals and
20 organizations, including the United States commission on civil
21 rights, have concluded that the use of Native American images and

1 names in school sports is a barrier to equality and understanding,
2 and that all residents of the United States would benefit from the
3 discontinuance of their use.

4 (4) The legislature therefore, recognizing that no school has a
5 cognizable interest in retaining a racially derogatory or
6 discriminatory school mascot, logo, or team name, intends to prohibit
7 the inappropriate use of Native American names, symbols, or images
8 for those purposes.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Except as provided otherwise by this section, beginning
12 January 1, 2022, public schools may not use Native American names,
13 symbols, or images as school mascots, logos, or team names.

14 (2) This section does not apply to public schools located within,
15 or with enrollment boundaries that include a portion of, "Indian
16 country," as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151, or public schools in a
17 county that contains all or part of a tribal reservation or tribal
18 trust lands, if the tribe or tribes having regulatory jurisdiction
19 over the territory within that boundary have:

20 (a) Been consulted by the appropriate school, district, or both.
21 Consultations under this subsection (2)(a) must include summaries of
22 completed and ongoing district and school actions required by RCW
23 28A.320.170; and

24 (b) Authorized the use of the name, symbol, or image as a mascot,
25 logo, or team name through an appropriate enactment or resolution.

26 (3) A public school may use uniforms or other materials after
27 January 1, 2022, bearing Native American names, symbols, or images as
28 mascots, logos, or team names if the uniforms or materials were
29 purchased before January 1, 2022, and if:

30 (a) The school selects a new mascot, logo, or team name by
31 December 31, 2021, to take effect in the 2021-22 school year;

32 (b) Except as provided otherwise by this subsection (3)(b), the
33 school does not purchase or acquire any uniforms or materials that
34 include the discontinued Native American name, symbol, or image.
35 However, a school using the discontinued Native American name,
36 symbol, or image may, until January 1, 2023, purchase or acquire a
37 number of uniforms equal to up to twenty percent of the total number
38 of uniforms used by a team, band, or cheer squad at that school

1 during the 2021-22 school year solely to replace damaged or lost
2 uniforms;

3 (c) The school does not purchase, create, or acquire any
4 yearbook, newspaper, program, or other similar material that includes
5 or bears the discontinued Native American name, symbol, or image; and

6 (d) The school does not purchase, construct, or acquire a
7 marquee, sign, or other new or replacement fixture that includes or
8 bears the discontinued Native American name, symbol, or image.

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