
HOUSE BILL 1511

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Ortiz-Self, Hurst, Appleton, Stokesbary, Goodman, Reykdal, Moscoso, Rodne, Pollet, Magendanz, Zeiger, Johnson, Tharinger, Tarleton, Fitzgibbon, Van De Wege, Santos, Wylie, Ormsby, Walkinshaw, Gregerson, and Farrell

Read first time 01/22/15. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to teaching Washington's tribal history, culture,
2 and government in the common schools; amending RCW 28A.320.170; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the need to
6 reaffirm the state's commitment to the promotion of the full success
7 of the centennial accord, which was signed by the state and tribal
8 government leaders in 1989. As those leaders declared in the
9 subsequent millennial accord in 1999, this will require "educating
10 the citizens of our state, particularly the youth who are our future
11 leaders, about tribal history, culture, treaty rights, contemporary
12 tribal and state government institutions and relations and the
13 contribution of Indian nations to the state of Washington." The
14 legislature recognizes that this goal has yet to be achieved in most
15 of our state's schools and districts. As a result, Indian students
16 may not find the school curriculum, especially Washington state
17 history curriculum, relevant to their lives or experiences. In
18 addition, many students may remain uninformed about the experiences,
19 contributions, and perspectives of their tribal neighbors, fellow
20 citizens, and classmates. Accordingly, the legislature finds that
21 merely encouraging education regarding Washington's tribal history,

1 culture, and government is not sufficient, and hereby declares its
2 intent that such education be mandatory in Washington's common
3 schools.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.170 and 2005 c 205 s 4 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) (~~Each~~) Beginning the effective date of this section, when a
7 school district board of directors (~~is encouraged to~~) reviews or
8 adopts its social studies curriculum, it shall incorporate curricula
9 about the history, culture, and government of the nearest federally
10 recognized Indian tribe or tribes, so that students learn about the
11 unique heritage and experience of their closest neighbors. School
12 districts near Washington's borders (~~are encouraged to~~) shall
13 include federally recognized Indian tribes whose traditional lands
14 and territories included parts of Washington, but who now reside in
15 Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia. School districts and tribes are
16 encouraged to work together to develop such curricula.

17 (2) As they conduct regularly scheduled reviews and revisions of
18 their social studies and history curricula, school districts (~~are~~
19 ~~encouraged to~~) shall collaborate with any federally recognized
20 Indian tribe within their district, and with neighboring Indian
21 tribes, to incorporate expanded and improved curricular materials
22 about Indian tribes, and to create programs of classroom and
23 community cultural exchanges.

24 (3) School districts (~~are encouraged to~~) shall collaborate with
25 the office of the superintendent of public instruction on curricular
26 areas regarding tribal government and history that are statewide in
27 nature, such as the concept of tribal sovereignty and the history of
28 federal policy towards federally recognized Indian tribes. The
29 program of Indian education within the office of the superintendent
30 of public instruction (~~is encouraged to~~) shall help local school
31 districts identify federally recognized Indian tribes whose
32 reservations are in whole or in part within the boundaries of the
33 district and/or those that are nearest to the school district.

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