
SENATE BILL 5574

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Nobles, Trudeau, Cortes, Frame, Kauffman, Lias, Lovelett, Lovick, McCune, Orwall, Riccelli, Stanford, Torres, Valdez, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/29/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to instruction on Asian American and Native
2 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history in public schools; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
4 28A.230 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

7 (a) The contributions of generations of Asian American and Native
8 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities have enriched and strengthened
9 this state and nation. Washington is the proud home of the seventh
10 largest Asian American population and third largest Pacific Islander
11 population in the nation, which make up nearly 12 percent of our
12 state's population. Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific
13 Islander residents have made valuable contributions to all areas of
14 Washington, including in government, business, arts and sciences,
15 medicine, law enforcement, and the military;

16 (b) Yet, Washington state has seen an increase in hate crimes and
17 violence against historically marginalized groups, two-thirds of
18 which are based on race or ethnicity. According to local and national
19 surveys, there has been a particularly significant rise in Asian
20 American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander youth experiencing
21 bullying and racism;

1 (c) Regardless of one's background, every student in Washington
2 state has a right to feel safe at school and in their communities;

3 (d) Teaching students about Asian American and Native Hawaiian/
4 Pacific Islander history and contributions is an important response
5 to the hateful rhetoric and violence the Asian American and Native
6 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community has experienced in recent years,
7 and a preventive measure to guard against such rhetoric and violence
8 in the future. For Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific
9 Islander students specifically, it will bolster their mental health
10 and sense of belonging in the state they call home. For all
11 Washington students, this education would foster a stronger sense of
12 community and shared history, underlining the struggles and values
13 that connect all of us as Americans;

14 (e) Consistent with RCW 28A.655.300, the legislature recognizes
15 the importance of public school students being global citizens in a
16 global society with an appreciation for the contributions of diverse
17 cultures. Research has shown that using historically accurate
18 curricula that are inclusive of historically marginalized and
19 underrepresented groups helps address lack of representation or
20 misrepresentation; and leads to positive changes in students'
21 attitudes, values, empathy, participation, academic performance, and
22 attendance rates;

23 (f) Too often, Asian Americans are viewed as either the "model
24 minority" or "perpetual foreigner," or both and omitted from ethnic
25 studies, United States history, and Washington history curricula and
26 instruction altogether. For Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders,
27 many of these traditionally overburdened communities have been
28 defined, excluded, and underserved by systems and institutions for
29 decades.

30 (2) Accordingly, and with the support of Asian American and
31 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community-based organizations, the
32 legislature intends for education regarding the history of Asian
33 Americans and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders be mandatory in
34 Washington's common schools.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 (1) By September 1, 2028, the office of the superintendent of
38 public instruction shall adopt Asian American and Native Hawaiian/
39 Pacific Islander history learning standards as part of the state

1 social studies learning standards and shall identify available
2 curricula and other instructional materials that are aligned to those
3 standards for use by school districts and collected in collaboration
4 with leaders of Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
5 community-based organizations and the statewide association of
6 educational service districts. For purposes of developing the
7 learning standards, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific
8 Islander history includes, but is not limited to, the history of
9 Americans of East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian, Native
10 Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent.

11 (2) The history learning standards adopted under subsection (1)
12 of this section must include, but are not limited to, the following
13 topics:

14 (a) A focus on the history of Asian Americans and Native
15 Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders in the state, the region, and the United
16 States, including incorporated and unincorporated territories of the
17 United States; and

18 (b) The local, regional, and national contributions of:

19 (i) Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders
20 towards advancing civil rights from the 19th century to the present
21 day;

22 (ii) Individual Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians/Pacific
23 Islanders in government, the arts, humanities, and sciences; and

24 (iii) Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
25 communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political
26 development of the United States.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) Beginning in the 2029-30 school year, school districts shall
30 provide instruction in grades K-12 on Asian American and Native
31 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history when the topic aligns with the
32 state social studies learning standards adopted under section 2 of
33 this act and is included in existing frameworks of United States
34 history and Washington state history. This instruction must include
35 the topics identified in section 2(2) of this act.

36 (2) When providing instruction on Asian American and Native
37 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history, school districts are encouraged to
38 use the curricula and other instructional materials identified by the
39 office of the superintendent of public instruction under the

1 provisions of section 2 of this act, ethnic studies materials and
2 resources as made available under RCW 28A.300.112, or other existing
3 and appropriate public or private materials, personnel, and
4 resources, provided that they align with the state learning standards
5 adopted by the office of the superintendent of public instruction
6 under section 2 of this act.

7 (3) A school district may accept gifts, grants, and donations,
8 including in-kind donations, related to instruction on Asian American
9 and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history.

10 (4) Beginning June 30, 2030, and by each June 30th thereafter,
11 each school district shall provide a report to the state board of
12 education, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
13 and the Washington state school directors' association, that the
14 district is offering the instruction required under this section, and
15 that the program of instruction is planned, ongoing, and systematic.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
17 public instruction shall establish an Asian American and Native
18 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history advisory committee to:

19 (a) Advise, assist, and make recommendations to the office of the
20 superintendent of public instruction regarding the (i) implementation
21 of learning standards regarding Asian American and Native Hawaiian/
22 Pacific Islander contributions, history, and perspectives, and (ii)
23 identification of Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
24 history curricula and other instructional materials described under
25 section 2 of this act;

26 (b) Develop a framework to support the teaching of Asian American
27 and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history in grades K-12,
28 including identifying educational programs, professional development,
29 and teacher training opportunities; and

30 (c) Submit a report to the office of equity in accordance with
31 RCW 43.18A.030.

32 (2) The Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
33 history advisory committee must meet the requirements in RCW
34 43.18A.020 and be composed of representatives from the Washington
35 state commission on Asian Pacific American affairs established in RCW
36 43.117.030, at least five community organizations working with the
37 Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities,
38 state agencies, educators with experience teaching Asian American and
39 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history in public high schools and

1 institutions of higher education, and any other relevant entities the
2 office of the superintendent of public instruction identifies.

3 (3) To ensure that the advisory committee has diverse and
4 inclusive representation of those affected by its work, advisory
5 committee members must be compensated as provided in RCW 43.03.220.

6 (4) Advisory committee members are not entitled to be reimbursed
7 for travel expenses if they are elected officials or are
8 participating on behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other
9 organization.

10 (5) This section expires June 30, 2028.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Nothing in this act supersedes the use of
12 the John McCoy (lulilaš) since time immemorial curriculum developed
13 and required under RCW 28A.320.170(1)(b). This act is supplementary
14 to, and does not supersede, the ethnic studies materials and
15 resources for public school students referenced in RCW 28A.655.300
16 and 28A.300.112.

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