
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5433

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Litzow, Rolfes, Roach, Fain, Hasegawa, Dammeier, McCoy, Nelson, Frockt, McAuliffe, Rivers, Kohl-Welles, Chase, Jayapal, Conway, and Habib)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/15.

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 educating the citizens of our
7 state, particularly the youth who are our future leaders, about
8 tribal history, culture, treaty rights, contemporary tribal and state
9 government institutions and relations and the contribution of Indian
10 nations to the state of Washington. The legislature recognizes that
11 this goal has yet to be achieved in most of our state's schools and
12 districts. As a result, Indian students may not find the school
13 curriculum, especially Washington state history curriculum, relevant
14 to their lives or experiences. In addition, many students may remain
15 uninformed about the experiences, contributions, and perspectives of
16 their tribal neighbors, fellow citizens, and classmates. The
17 legislature finds that more widespread use of the Since Time
18 Immemorial curriculum developed by the office of the superintendent
19 of public instruction and available free of charge to schools would
20 contribute greatly towards helping improve school's history
21 curriculum and improve the experiences Indian students have in our

1 schools. Accordingly, the legislature finds that merely encouraging
2 education regarding Washington's tribal history, culture, and
3 government is not sufficient, and hereby declares its intent that
4 such education be mandatory in Washington's common schools.

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

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

18 (b) School districts shall meet the requirements of this section
19 by using curriculum developed and made available free of charge by
20 the office of the superintendent of public instruction and may modify
21 that curriculum in order to incorporate elements that have a
22 regionally specific focus or to incorporate the curriculum into
23 existing curricular materials.

24 (2) As they conduct regularly scheduled reviews and revisions of
25 their social studies and history curricula, school districts ~~((are~~
26 ~~encouraged to))~~shall collaborate with any federally recognized Indian
27 tribe within their district, and with neighboring Indian tribes, to
28 incorporate expanded and improved curricular materials about Indian
29 tribes, and to create programs of classroom and community cultural
30 exchanges.

31 (3) School districts ~~((are encouraged to))~~shall collaborate with
32 the office of the superintendent of public instruction on curricular
33 areas regarding tribal government and history that are statewide in
34 nature, such as the concept of tribal sovereignty and the history of
35 federal policy towards federally recognized Indian tribes. The
36 program of Indian education within the office of the superintendent
37 of public instruction ~~((is encouraged to))~~shall help local school
38 districts identify federally recognized Indian tribes whose

1 reservations are in whole or in part within the boundaries of the
2 district and/or those that are nearest to the school district.

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